MNLF, MILF agree to unite; accord signed

STORY ON PAGE A2

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RP's top Boy Scout is a girl

THE COUNTRY'S Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines is a girl.

PresidentMacapagal-Arroyo will be installed

RP/ A15

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Belinda Panelo takes another shot at acting
- Neil Diamond strikes a solitary 'Chord'
- Thora Birch is outstanding in 'Ghost World'

PANELO

Abu strikes again; 30 seized, 4 killed

3 of 4 victims beheaded in Basilan raid

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—The Abu Sayyaf pulled off a fresh attack Thursday, kidnapping 30 persons from Barangays Balobo and Bohe Baka and killing four of them, three by beheading.

The bandits entered the two villages at 7 p.m. Thursday and ordered residents out of their homes, said resident Glenda Esteban.

"All of us were told to come out and made to walk and walk until we reached Lumoton," said Esteban, whom the bandits later released along with her daughter Gladys.

Esteban said she and her daughter were freed "because the bandits want us to tell the government about their demands—to stop the military operations in Basilan and to allow the Malaysians to take part in negotiations for the hostages' release."

Esteban called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to grant the bandits' demands "so the hostages would be freed safely."

But "that's how war is," the President said at her press conference yesterday in Malacañang.

"War is never one-sided. My reaction is, as a government we cannot be blackmailed," she said.

The President also said that "precisely because the heat (posed by military operations against the bandits) was so strong, the Abu Sayyaf had to do this retaliatory action."

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding two Americans and 19 Filipinos in Basilan. The Americans and two of the Filipinos were part of an original group of 20 abducted from the Dos-

ABU/ A15

ST. LUKE'S GOES GLOBAL JOAN BONDOC

President Macapagal vows "moral support" for the P4.5-B hospital project in Fort Bonifacio Global City. The agreement was signed at the Palace by Ricardo Pascua (extreme left), Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. president/CEO and St. Luke's president/CEO Jose F.G. Ledesma in the presence of the President and First Pacific chair Manuel V. Pangilinan (to the President's right). *(Story on Page B2.)*

DFA revokes passports of Lacson boys

BY TJ BURGONIO, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

ON ORDERS of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday revoked the passports of fugitive police officers Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao III, who have reportedly crossed the border into Canada from the United States.

An official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at the US Embassy in Manila has confirmed that the two senior superintendents of the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) have fled to Canada, according to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo.

Domingo said the INS official informed her that Aquino and Mancao were spotted in Las Vegas, Nevada, two weeks ago.

Domingo on Thursday confirmed that Aquino and Mancao were able to leave the country via the Mactan International Airport three weeks ago despite a hold-departure order issued against them.

The police officers, who used fake passports, left on a Cathay Pacific flight for Hong Kong where they later took a connecting flight to the United States, Domingo said.

"We should cancel their passports," Ms Macapagal said of Aquino and Mancao, who were barred from leaving the country because of their role in the May 1 assault of Malacañang by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The two, protégés of Sen. Ping Lacson when he still headed the Philippine National Police (PNP), are also facing summary dismissal proceedings and criminal charges like murder, drug trafficking and kidnapping.

They are being investigated in connection with the abduction and death of public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

The police officers are also being linked to

DFA/ A4

Gloria asks BSP to prop up peso to 50-to-$1

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND CLARISSA S. BATINO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to crack down on dollar hoarders and speculators to improve the peso-dollar rate to P50 to the greenback by the end of the year.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he agreed with Ms Macapagal that the peso could strengthen to "about 50 to the dollar by year-end" but said this would depend on several factors.

"The budget deficit should be under control, foreign direct investments should (come) in and US recovery should take hold, so the concerns on the balance of payments won't be there," he said.

He said the BSP was nevertheless prepared to raise interest rates and put in place additional measures to enable the peso to recover to P50 to a dollar by December.

The President said "the present exchange rate is artificial. The peso is undervalued."

The peso recovered almost 20 centavos yesterday and closed at 53.45 against the dollar, down 4.8 percent from the start of the year, while the Philippine Stock Ex-

GLORIA/ A3

Reforms will continue, gov't workers warned

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND PHILIP TUBEZA

AFTER replacing the reform-minded head of the Social Security System (SSS) in the face of employees' strikes and protests, President Macapagal-Arroyo warned yesterday that she would not be pressured into doing the same thing again.

"This should not in any way be viewed as precedent-setting and be an excuse to backtrack on reforming our various agencies and to challenge our executive discretion," Ms Macapagal told a press conference.

She made the warning a day after replacing SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II with accounting executive Corazon de la Paz, following nationwide strikes this week by pension fund executives and employees who were angered by reforms he was instituting.

Yet even as the President rejected suggestions that she had caved in to mob rule, union members of the National Power Corp. in the northern provinces were apparently emboldened by what SSS employees earlier called a "victorious precedent."

Napocor workers are now drawing up new demands to guarantee

REFORMS/ A15

On the air, Gloria tells Mike: Shut up

BY ARLYN DELA CRUZ
PDI contributor

(Ed's note: The author is a broadcast journalist with radio station dzEC, and her quotes are based on a transcript of the station's Thursday morning interview with Mike Arroyo.)

"STOP these interviews!" the female voice ordered.

Listeners of radio station dzEC Radyo Aguila were treated to a surprise live drama Thursday morning, starring no less than the First Couple of the land.

Later, off the air, First Gentle-

ON/ A5

Kids start smoking at 11, study shows

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

MORE than a quarter of the number of Filipino grade school students aged 6-14 know what marijuana and *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) look like, but none of them has actually used the banned substances.

But a few have drunk alcohol and smoked cigarettes starting at age 11, according to a pilot study conducted by the National Poison Control and Information Service of the University of the Philippines and Philippine General Hospital among 640 third- to sixth-graders of two selected public schools in Quezon City.

"Based on the results of the study, early use of alcohol and cigarettes was noted. Fortunately, the study failed to document (*shabu*) use, and 38.9 percent perceived that its use is against the law," said Dr. Wenceslao Kiat, one of the three UP professors who conducted the study.

Kiat presented the results of the study yesterday before a

KIDS/ A4

JUNK AND THE CITY ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

The Makati skyline backdrops the scavengers who make their daily living from sifting through mounds of garbage at Welfareville, Mandaluyong City.

'I have no knowledge of bribery'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

ADMITTING that her information was based solely on text messages, a woman whom opposition legislators had hoped would give them reason to investigate First Gentleman Mike Arroyo yesterday drove the last nail into the coffin of a bribery scandal.

Opposition senators had wanted to question Malou Nuñez, a former consultant of the Department of

I HAVE/A5

Second FRONT PAGE

MNLF, MILF agree to unite

THE COUNTRY'S largest Muslim separatist groups that have waged war against the government have agreed to unite.

The Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front "initialized" Friday a unity agreement in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, about 50 kilometers south of Kuala Lumpur. The deal was reached after two days of intensive talks.

The MNLF already has a peace deal with the Philippine government, signed in 1996, while the MILF is holding talks with Manila in Malaysia for a separate peace agreement.

Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Razak witnessed the "initializing" of the agreement—marking an intent to unite—with the actual signing to take place when President Macapagal-Arroyo makes a two-day visit to Malaysia beginning Tuesday.

Najib said the breakup of the MNLF, which led to the formation of the MILF in 1976, had set back the Muslim struggle in the largely Roman Catholic Philippines.

"The consequences of this breakup had far-reaching effects on the leadership of the Moro people and fragmented the directions of your struggle," he said at the ceremony.

"The agreement will provide (a) new platform for a more lasting solution to resolve the Moro people's problem," the Malaysian minister said. "This will be the beginning of a new era for the Moro people."

The accord will give the two factions a united front in cooperating with the Philippine government, Najib noted.

MNLF vice president Hatimil Hassan said unity was crucial to promoting peace and prosperity in the poverty-stricken southern Philippines. The group would not push for an Islamic state but greater autonomy, he added.

"There are Muslims and Christians there. We respect all religions. We will not push for an Islamic state but we will leave that to the people," he said.

The MILF vice chair for military affairs, Murad Ebrahim, said the unity agreement would promote the peace cause after three decades of insurgency.

"We should leave behind the differences that set us apart and, together as one, let us move forward and secure for ourselves the bounties of freedom which have been denied the Moro people for so long," he said.

Predominantly Muslim Malaysia is brokering two sets of talks involving Philippine Muslim rebels, one tackling MILF-MNLF unity issues and the other involving the MILF and the Philippine government.

The MNLF and the MILF each claim to represent the five million Muslim minority in the largely Catholic Philippines.

Ebrahim and a Philippine government representative both said the agreement between the two groups would help negotiations between the Muslim community and the government.

"With this pact, it will be easier for (government) to deal with the Moro people as one entity," Ebrahim said.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters in Manila on Thursday: "(This) means it would be easier to coordinate with (the Muslims) regarding plans to develop Mindanao and to deal with their demands for autonomy."

Malaysia's Najib dismissed concerns the new unity could mean the two groups were joining forces and presenting a greater threat to the government.

"No, they have not decided to pursue violence or to wage war," he said.

The MNLF spearheaded a Muslim separatist revolt in Mindanao in 1972 against then dictator Ferdinand Marcos. A power struggle among its commanders led to a split and the formation in 1978 of the MILF.

Hassan, head of the MNLF delegation to the talks, said his group was committed to the deal.

"This agreement is the key to peace, progress and justice for our people," he said.

The deal includes the creation of a consultative council which would represent the Moro people in talks with Manila.

In 1996, MNLF chair Nur Misuari signed a peace agreement with the government and was elected governor of a semi-autonomous Muslim region covering four southern provinces.

The MILF refused to take part in the talks but opened its own negotiations with Manila in 1997.

Negotiations broke down last year after then President Joseph Estrada ordered an offensive against the MILF.

Talks resumed in June, months after Estrada was forced from office by a "people power" revolt which brought Macapagal to power. *AFP, Reuters*

Gloria hails union of 2 Moro rebel groups

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed Friday the deal uniting the country's two main Muslim separatist factions, but she downplayed the chance of a peace pact being signed with one of the groups next week.

The agreement reuniting the estranged Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic Liberation Front was announced in Malaysia Friday.

Macapagal is to witness the formal signing of the agreement next week in Kuala Lumpur.

Her trip sparked speculation a peace agreement with the 12,500-member MILF was imminent, as the group is currently in peace talks with the Philippine government in Malaysia.

The MNLF, on the other hand, has had a peace deal with the government since 1996.

Macapagal said at a press conference "there is no projected signing" of a peace deal.

The MNLF-government peace pact resulted in the formation of the four-province Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

On Aug. 14, a plebiscite is due to be held in the southern Mindanao region to ask the electorate there if they want to join the ARMM.

President Macapagal said she preferred that the plebiscite be postponed.

In her weekly news conference, the President said if she had her way, the ARMM plebiscite would be postponed "as a matter of sensitivity to the wishes of those who want it postponed."

Ms Macapagal said she preferred the ARMM plebiscite to be held together with the barangay elections early next year "so it's all one exercise."

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said he met with ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari, who has been asking for a postponement of the plebiscite.

He described the meeting as a "very friendly exchange." *Christine Avendaño, with an AFP report*

PCGG: Gold story based on 'forgeries and fantasies'

FOR ALL THE GOLD he might have hidden, Ferdinand Marcos did not hide any under the name of the late North Korean strongman Kim Il-sung.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday the gold certificates Marcos allegedly tried to hide using the name of Kim were fake and have been around for years.

The PCGG produced a photocopy of a certificate for $427.65 billion worth of gold bars supposedly deposited in the National Bank of Canada.

The certificate, which had surfaced during a past PCGG administration, also identified Kim as the "guarantee holder" of the gold bullion in Canada.

New PCGG chair Haydee Yorac said the existence of "many" such certificates would suggest that the most recent claim that Marcos had deposited 940 tons of gold with the Union Bank of Switzerland was also incredible.

"If we believed all these documents, then we should be the richest country in the world—it's just that all our gold is (stashed abroad)," Yorac said.

"(That would mean) our gold deposits are bigger than Fort Knox, the US depository," she said.

Initial findings by the PCGG research division showed infirmities, such as non-existent offices and titles, in the gold certificate published in the South Korean newspaper, Munhwa Ilbo.

The PCGG report said the latest document to surface belonged to the same set of gold certificates allegedly belonging to a certain Melba Aganon, which the US District Court in Chicago had ruled were "forgeries and fantasies."

The names J.P. Union F.S. Banking and the D.S. Bullion Metal Department, both of which appeared on the certificate, do not exist in the Global Directory of Banks or at UBS.

"The initials 'V.T. Switzerland, 567 V' which appear to be a location for the Union Bank of Switzerland is not among the addresses of the UBS' 115 branches and 128 agencies in Switzerland," the initial PCGG report said.

"The Precious Metals Services of UBS transacts business at the Gold and Numismatics Office at the UBS head office in Zurich," according to the findings submitted to Yorac yesterday.

The title "governor," which was on the certificate, is not used to refer to any position in banking in Switzerland, the report further stated.

Yorac said, however, the PCGG findings were not conclusive and the agency will request the Philippine Embassy in Seoul to ask Munhwa Ilbo for more information.

She said the PCGG will try to identify the former Marcos aide who reportedly brought the gold certificate to the newspaper.

"We're still tracking him down but if experience teaches us anything, it is that this is another will o' the wisp," Yorac said.

She said the many claims of Marcos gold purportedly stashed abroad have been used by unscrupulous persons to get others to invest in the search for the hidden assets.

"Things like this go around because there are many swindlers in this world, and there are many fools in this world," Yorac said.

Alikpala elected president of oldest RP lawyers' group

JUDGE Federico Y. Alikpala Jr. was recently elected president of the Philippine Bar Association, the oldest voluntary national organization of lawyers in the country.

Also elected officers for the year 2001-2002 were Rolando P. dela Cuesta, 1st vice president; J. Conrado P. Castro, 2nd vice president; Rita Linda V. Jimeno, 3rd vice president; Rodolfo A. Gamboa, vice president for administration and finance; Bienvenido I. Somera, Jr., treasurer; Hector A. Martinez, secretary; and Vida M. Panganiban, assistant. secretary. The other members of the board of directors are: outgoing president Federico A. Agcaoili, Alonzo Q. Ancheta, Jose A. Feria, Jr., Ernestine C.J.D. Villareal-Fernando, Jose Perpetuo M. Lotilla, Roberto Rafael V. Lucila, Antonio S. Tria, Rogelio A. Vinluan and Arsenio B. Yulo, Jr.

The council of advisers is composed of past presidents Manuel A. Barcelona Jr., Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Jr. Cruz Jr., former Undersecretary Ruben O. Fruto, Carlos G. Platon and Antonio R. Velicaria.

The PBA traces its roots to the Colegio de Abogados de Felipinas organized in 1891 and the Bar Association organized by American lawyers in the Philippines in 1900. The two organizations merged in 1904 to form the Philippine Bar Association. Through the years, the PBA has taken a proactive stand on many important issues, including condemnation of martial law in 1972, opposition to the irresponsible attempts to amend the Constitution, active support to the calls for resignation and impeachment of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada.

Alikpala was a former RTC judge of Makati and board director and senior executive officer of PNOC/Petron conglomerate. A UP law graduate, he started his career with the SyCip Salazar law offices. Today, he is the managing partner of The Lawyers Group which he co-founded with banker and former Executive Secretary Edgardo B. Espiritu. He is an accredited arbitrator of the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission and of the DOLE/NCMB.

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Washington barred Ping, Gringo from US confab?

BY ARMAND NOCUM

AN ANTI-TERRORISM international convention without the Senate's famous law-and-order duo?

But Senators Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson are apparently unqualified to attend the "Financial Underpinnings of Terrorism Seminar" of the US State Department's Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program.

Hence, the Senate is sending two human rights lawyers-turned-senators and a doctor-cum-senator to attend the convention in Washington D.C.

One of the conditions of the invitation from the US Embassy was that the chamber refrain from sending "attendees who are the subject of pending criminal and/or civil cases, especially those cases involving human rights violations."

Likewise barred from taking the all-expense-paid trip are those "associated with persons indicted for war crimes and/or engaged in corrupt and criminal practices."

Asked about the matter, Honasan lashed out at the US government for "dictating on our government" on internal security matters.

He stressed, however, that the letter did not say that he had been rejected by the US State Department.

He denied having any pending court case.

Honasan, who was implicated in several coups against the government, admitted, however, that his US visa has been marked as "international terrorist."

Lacson, the former national police chief, has been implicated in a series of crimes, ranging from torture, murder, summary execution, obstruction of justice, drug trafficking, kidnap-for-ransom, smuggling, racketeering and money laundering.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Senators Juan Flavier and Francis Pangilinan are attending the seminar in place of Honasan and Lacson.

"I was invited as chair of the justice and human rights committees," Pangilinan said.

He said 12 officials from the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation were also attending the conference.

He said the seminar will be tackling the issue of where terrorist groups get their funds to carry out their activities.

Sandigan urged to summon 5 bank presidents

THE OMBUDSMAN'S office yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to summon the presidents of five more banks alleged to be holding "questionable" accounts of ousted President Joseph Estrada as well as other evidence related to the so-called Jose Velarde account.

This is the third set of summons sought by the Ombudsman and his team of special prosecutors as they prepare for the Aug. 13 to 17 hearings for the marking of evidence in the plunder case against Estrada.

Among the accounts from which the prosecution is seeking more evidence are those of Estrada friend, Jaime Dichaves at the Far East Bank and Trust Co., branch in Cubao, listed as Savings Account No. 0107-38639-9, Current Account No. 0007-05558-7, and Account No. 000007-07549.9.

Estrada had claimed that Dichaves was the owner of the account under the name of Jose Velarde.

During Estrada's impeachment trial last December, a senior bank executive testified that Estrada had signed bank documents in the name of Jose Velarde.

The prosecutors have also asked the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division to subpoena the president of Asia United Bank, where Estrada allegedly holds an account worth P571,000, as well as the presidents of Equitable-PCIBank, Allied Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank.

The Asia United Bank was asked to bring documents covering 10 manager's checks bought from that bank amounting to P348.7 million.

The government prosecutors would not say how these checks were related to the plunder case.

"We will see once the documents come in," said prosecutor Antonio Manzano.

The bank presidents were asked to bring the "original and certified copies" of these documents when they appear before the 3rd Division from Aug. 13 to 17 at 2 p.m.

Equitable-PCIBank president Deogracias Vistan was asked to bring to the court documents on 24 manager's checks worth P900.137 million bought from the bank by 15 people.

The 15 who bought the checks from the bank's Binondo branch were Mark Go, Manuel Villaluz, Martin Acosta, Ben Rivera, Luis Tan, Delfin Santos, Joan Legaspi, Joey Sta. Cruz, Manuel Lee, Paolo Lorenzo, Rowena Chan, Larry Cheng, Wilfredo Tiu, Antonio Lagro and Mariano Tengco.

Allied Bank was also asked to explain Account No. 115722 to which an Equitable-PCIBank manager's check worth P100 million was deposited.

The UCPB was asked to be summoned to explain two account numbers which contained a check each worth P15 million.

The bank presidents were asked to bring with them the following documents related to the accounts and checks that they were asked to explain: application for the opening of the account; specimen signature card; bank ledger, bank statement; deposit or withdrawal slips; bank credit or debit memos and advices; microfilm of checks deposited or drawn from the account; application for the purchase of the manager's or cashier's checks of the person who owns the account; microfilm of the purchased checks; trust agreement executed by and between the bank and the owner of the account; and all other documents relevant to the account.

Jinggoy moving to Makati Med

THE SANDIGANBAYAN ordered late Thursday the transfer of Jinggoy Estrada to the Makati Medical Center for more tests for a possible heart ailment.

Acting upon the recommendation of cardiologists, the court's 3rd Division ordered the Philippine National Police to immediately transfer Jinggoy to the MMC.

The younger Estrada is being detained with his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center while awaiting trial on charges of plunder.

The court directed Jinggoy's attending physicians at the MMC to submit "periodic reports" on the progress of his medical treatment every other day.

The court cited the Aug. 2 letter of Dr. Lorenzo Jocson, the Estrada family physician, which had been faxed from the director's office of the VMMC.

Jocson said that Dr. Roberto Anastacio, Jinggoy's attending cardiologist, had called his attention to the results of blood tests done at the VMMC.

Jocson said the findings revealed that Jinggoy's had increased levels of the CPK enzyme indicating a heart injury.

He said this was corroborated by electrocardiogram (ECG) results.

Anastacio had recommended that Jinggoy be transferred immediately to the MMC for treatment, Jocson said in a letter to presiding Justice Anacleto Badoy.

The 38-year-old Jinggoy was first examined on July 12 at the MMC.

Doctors, including Anastacio, the chief cardiologist of the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, recommended that he be allowed an extended stay at the MMC for more tests.

An earlier GMA-7 report quoted Anastacio as saying that Jinggoy had suffered a heart attack three months ago which left his heart "injured."

But Jinggoy apparently "did not feel" the heart attack.

Anastacio said Jinggoy's "heavy consumption of cigarettes, obesity and hypertension" were risk factors. *Donna S. Cueto*

30 kidnap suspects arrested, says PNP

BY CARLITO PABLO

THIRTY suspected kidnap-for-ransom gang members have been arrested since July 3, when Malacañang gave law enforcement authorities 90 days to neutralize such groups.

In a statement, Camp Crame said the suspects belonged to five of the 18 organized crime groups identified by the Philippine National Police.

The most notorious of the neutralized groups was the Joel Medrano gang which was believed responsible for, among others, the kidnapping of Singaporean national Benedict Leong and Hong Kong resident Judy Chan in Tondo, Manila, on April 26.

At the same time, the PNP reported that it had rescued three victims from their kidnappers.

One was 10-year-old Ryan James Yu who was freed in Cebu City last week. The others were South Korean Jung Ok-oh in Quezon and Filipino-Chinese businessman Alvin Sy in Laguna.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said the arrests were "a good indication the law enforcement community is keeping within the 90-day timetable."

Aside from the PNP, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Bureau of Investigation are involved in the government's stepped-up anti-crime drive.

"This government effort was strengthened with the forging of an inter-agency agreement among the PNP, AFP and NBI for closer cooperation against organized crime groups," Lina said.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said Camp Crame has formed an anti-heinous crime coordinating committee which would "take immediate action on matters pertaining to kidnappings, armed robbery, carjackings and other heinous crimes."

The committee is composed of representatives from the PNP Intelligence Group, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and the Special Task Group.

Gloria asks . . . (From page 1)

change composite index dropped to its lowest level in nine months to 1,328.17.

"Our biggest enemies are the dollar speculators and hoarders. They do not care about the hardships the country faces as long as they amass wealth," the President said.

"I am therefore urging the central bank to take steps necessary to bring the peso-dollar exchange rate to P50 to one dollar or even lower within this year," she said.

The President noted that Hong Kong Shanghai Bank had predicted that the peso would appreciate to P51 to the dollar next month before settling at P50.

But one investment bank has predicted the peso will slump to 60 to the dollar by the end of the year.

"Before it (peso-dollar rate) goes down, we have to crack down once and for all on these speculative forces," the President said.

Her call for a crackdown on speculators came after exports last June fell 25 percent to $2.57 billion from $3.41 billion in the same month last year. It was the worst annual contraction since the 1970s.

More reforms

The President reiterated that the country would continue to be "business friendly."

"More reforms can be expected in the days to come. They have only one aim, to free the economy from the constraints of over-regulation and over-dependence on the bureaucracy," she said.

"This is consistent with the overall goal of increasing employment and modernizing the economy while maintaining the highest standards of morality in government," she added.

Buenaventura said the BSP was considering an increase in the reserve requirement of banks for the second straight week to prop up the peso.

He said the central bank could look into another increase in the liquidity or statutory reserve requirement on the banks' deposits and an increase in the minimum amount of funds which state depositary banks can invest in government securities.

Buenaventura said an increase in the key overnight rates might be another option.

"We can also increase the overnight rates but I'm quite reluctant to use that," he said.

Buenaventura said the central bank had already pursued measures to prevent the peso from falling any further.

Among these were the implementation of the Currency Risk Protection Program for big importers, the recent increase in the reserve requirement for banks and the removal of the incremental reduction in the BSP's borrowing interest rates.

Buenaventura said the central bank had also tightened its non-monetary penalties against foreign exchange speculation. It reduced the maximum dollars that can be bought without documentation to $5,000 every 15 days from $10,000.

Palace, BSP coordinate

The BSP chief said the President was aware of the measures that the BSP had taken to protect the peso.

"We meet with the President once in a while to update her about the measures we have done and she is aware of the factors that the peso needs in order to recover," the central bank chief said.

Traders said the peso strengthened yesterday after banks voluntarily reduced their "overbought limit" by half to $5 million, which may free up as much as $70 million into the system.

The overbought limit is the maximum amount of dollars that a bank can hold.

While it includes the banks' requirement as well as those it was trading in behalf of a client, the limit is not being imposed on a bank's money-changing subsidiaries that may allow banks to simply shuffle its dollar holdings.

Plunging stocks

Local stocks led by telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday slumped to their worst levels since the "juetengate" scandal erupted in October that led to the collapse of the Estrada administration.

The fall was triggered by a string of negative developments such as the disappointing corporate earnings for the second quarter, the further contraction of exports and the beheading of more people in Basilan by the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped by 13.39 points or 1.52 percent to close at 1328.17, the lowest level since Oct. 31 when the index hit 1,287.85 after then President Estrada was accused of receiving payoffs from illegal gambling. *With a report from Doris Dumlao*

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DFA revokes passports of Lacson boys

(From page A1)

the abduction and summary execution of casino employee Edgar Bentain.

With the revocation of their passports, Mancao and Aquino now face deportation, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said.

"They won't be able to get out of there because the document that entitles them to stay legally in another country has been cancelled. Their only option is to hide," he said.

The cancellation of the two officers' passports will be circulated in all Philippine embassies and consulates around the world, according to Ebdalin.

He said that the DFA could also ask the Canadian government to extradite Mancao and Aquino if the Philippine government, through the Department of Justice, made a formal request.

The Philippines has an existing extradition treaty with Canada.

Despite the mounting evidence that the two police officers were already abroad, Mancao's lawyer yesterday insisted that his client was still in the country.

"As far as I know, he (Mancao) is still in the country. In fact, we talked last night and this morning on cellphone," said lawyer Bernard Vitriolo of the Perlas De Guzman Law Office.

Aquino also called GMA-7 using his cellphone the other night and said that he was still in the country.

Vitriolo said Mancao could not appear before the three-member DOJ investigation panel looking into the Dacer-Corbito double-murder case yesterday because he was being prosecuted.

"One day absent for them would be considered AWOL (absence without official leave) by the PNP, so they are very careful about absenting themselves from their respective assignments," Vitriolo said.

The PNP has considered Mancao and Aquino AWOL since July 16.

The DOJ panel said the double-murder case was ready for resolution after the principal suspects, Mancao and Aquino, failed to submit their counter affidavits.

Vitriolo was able to submit a counter affidavit on the charges brought forward by Supt. Glenn Dumlao last June. Dumlao has implicated Mancao and Aquino in the double murder.

But State Prosecutor Ruben Caretas, head of the panel, told reporters that Mancao's counter affidavit would have no value because the police officer did not swear to its validity before the panel.

Mere scrap of paper

"It is a mere scrap of paper with no evidenciary value," Caretas said.

Because the case is ready for resolution, the panel can either recommend that it be dismissed or that charges be filed against Mancao, Aquino and the other respondents.

Charges will most likely be filed against Mancao and Aquino. The panel may also find probable cause against the two because they failed to submit any counter affidavits.

Mancao and Aquino were subpoenaed by the panel on July 16. The first hearing was conducted on July 27. The hearing yesterday was the second held by the panel investigating the charges against Mancao and Aquino.

Caretas said they would add the name of former PAOCTF Visayas chief Supt. Teofilo Viña to the list of respondents in the case based on a request by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Viña allegedly approved the gun permits of two of the suspects in the case, Alex Diloy and Jimmy Lopez.

In Cebu, the Bureau of Immigration is conducting an investigation to determine if Aquino and Mancao indeed left the country through the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

"If indeed Mancao and Aquino left the country through MCIA, we will run after the immigration people (who helped the two)," Alien Control Officer Fernando Baton told the INQUIRER.

Baton said they were checking the departure lists of Cathay Pacific for Hong Kong from July 1 to 6.

But he said they were focusing on the July 6 departure after he was informed that Mancao and Aquino left for Hong Kong on this date.

Baton said that based on their records, the Cathay Pacific plane left for Hong Kong with only 40 passengers, at 6:30 p.m. on July 6.

At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), the chief of the Bureau of Immigration unit has been shown the door partly because of his close ties to Lacson.

Danilo Almeda, BI head supervisor at Naia, led 135 immigration officers at the airport who were reshuffled on Aug. 1 on orders of Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo.

"He has caused a lot of problems. I can no longer parry them. If I don't (replace) him there will be doubts on my loyalty to the government," Domingo explained when asked why Almeda was included in the revamp. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa and Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

ERRATUM

The Easy Loan Gifts to Own 2 promo is extended only up to August 31, 2001 as approved by DTI-NCR. Not up to October 31, July 2001 as previously published last Tuesday, July 31, 2001 on page 4, main section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. We regret whatever confusion and inconvenience this error may have caused. Kindly refer to the succeeding placements of Easy Loan Gifts to Own.

Kids start smoking . . .

(From page A1)

multisectoral panel at the UP National Institute of Health.

The study, conducted from June 2000 to March 2001, was aimed at determining the knowledge, awareness and practices of Filipino grade school children to assist the government in creating an effective educational program for substance abuse.

Kiat said researchers personally interviewed the children using four separate questionnaires. The subjects were shown pictures of alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana and *shabu* and asked to identify the substances.

The results showed that more than 90 percent of the respondents were able to identify alcohol and cigarettes, and 27.34 percent and 28.43 percent, marijuana and *shabu*, respectively,

"Only one child admitted having tried marijuana once," Kiat said.

A qualitative urine test for *shabu* use yielded negative results for all subjects, he said.

However, 7.4 percent and 4 percent of the respondents admitted having drunk alcohol and smoked cigarettes, respectively, and 1.7 percent used both alcohol and cigarettes.

Peer pressure

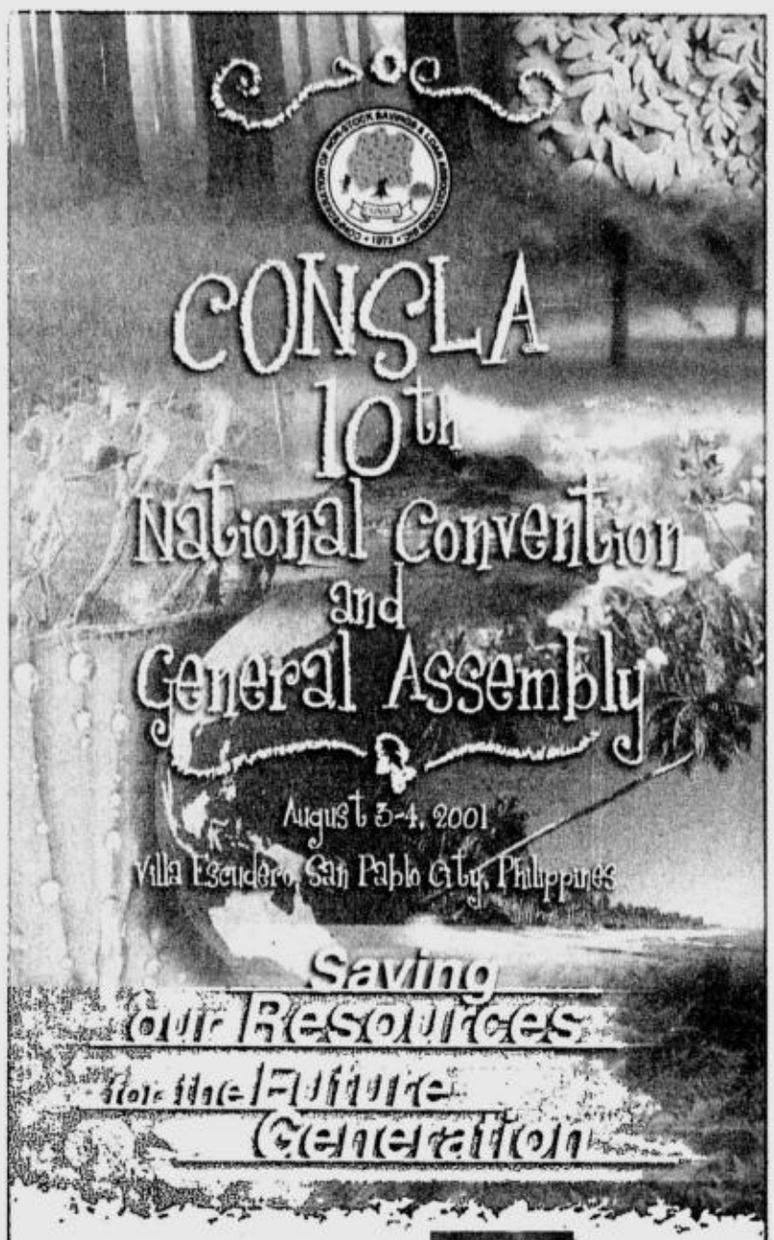
The study showed that the average age of first use of alcohol and cigarettes was 11.

"Early use was associated with curiosity, peer pressure, feeling grownup and the idea that 'others do it,' together with early exposure from various sources like the media, the home environment and the community," Kiat said.

He said that based on the responses, "parents are still the deterrent factor to using these substances." He added that less than 2 percent considered the school a deterrent factor.

Of the 640 subjects, 30.31 percent, 32.5 percent, 23.59 percent and 18.28 percent said alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana and *shabu*, respectively, were bad for the body.

"The risk factors involved should be dealt with as soon as possible," Kiat said. "Otherwise, these children will contribute to the new upturn of substance abuse in this country."



Malacañan Palace
Manila

It is my distinct pleasure to greet the officers and members of the Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc. (CONSLA) on their Tenth National Convention.

Non-stock savings and loan associations have been, for many years, vibrant players in the non-banking sector of the Philippine financial system. They act as conduits of savings and credit facilities for their members and provide a reservoir of resources which promotes entrepreneurial activity and helps in the financing of business projects vital in achieving more sustained national development. I urge the CONSLA to strengthen their commitment in creating a more dynamic business environment for the country.

The importance of savings generation and capital mobilization to hasten our country's economic momentum cannot be overemphasized. Government draws from its domestic savings to come up with the necessary funding for its poverty alleviation projects and other related development programs. I therefore call on the CONSLA to work with our government and instill in our people the importance of savings as a precursor towards achieving more sustained economic development.

The theme of your convention, "CONSLA: Saving Our Resources for the Future Generation," clearly manifests your sincere commitment in helping the government raise our people's awareness in the value of saving our resources, financial or otherwise, to become self-reliant members of the community. As you continue on these noble objectives, I wish each and every member of the CONSLA good luck as they play pivotal roles in nation-building.

I urge all of you to participate in the efforts to improve our country. Let us all work together in guiding our beloved Philippines towards economic recovery and greater peace and prosperity.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
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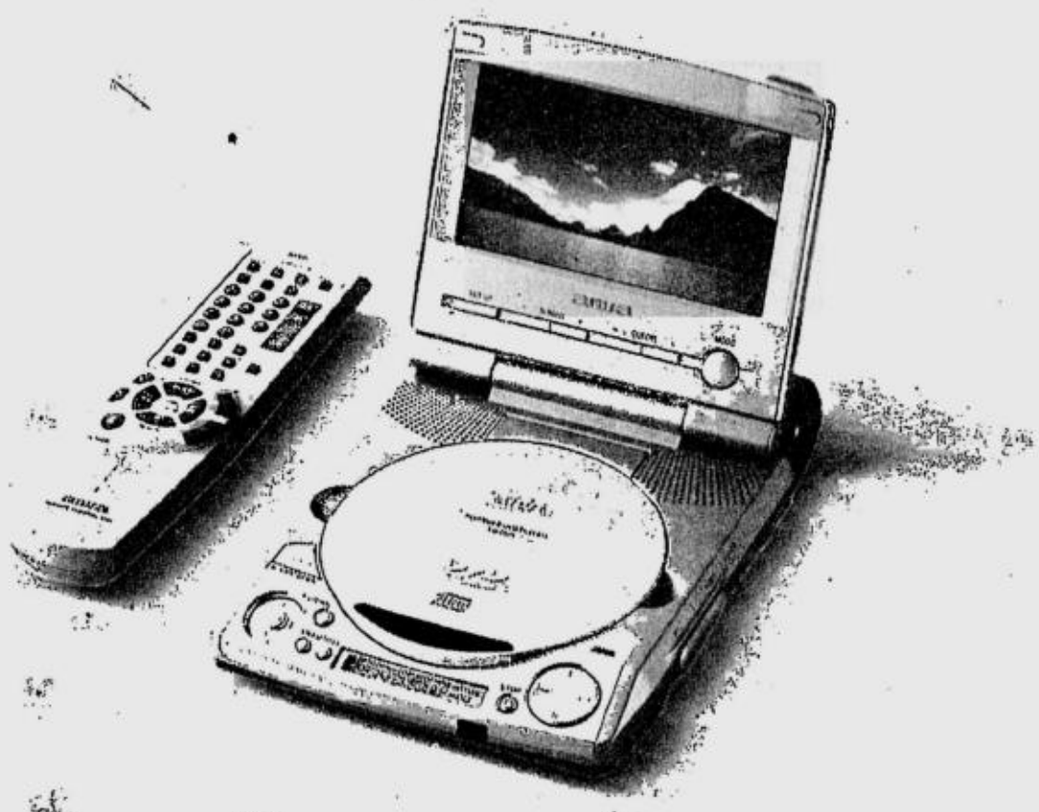

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'I have no knowledge of bribery'

(From page A1)

Transportation and Communication who earlier this year went to the Palace to inquire about the status of a request for the President to reconsider her vetoes of two telecommunications franchise bills.

In a call to radio station dzMM from an undisclosed place abroad, Nuñez said: "All I know is what I read in my text messages. Other than that, I have no first-hand knowledge."

"I have absolutely no knowledge of any alleged bribery by any person involving the said telecom franchise," said Nuñez, referring to rumors that Arroyo accepted a large bribe to use his influence to get the vetoes overturned. Only Congress can override an executive veto.

Nuñez chided Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, the President's former correspondence secretary, for allegedly making a big thing out of a rumor spread by text messages. Rodrigo's earlier remarks—that she heard that Arroyo had accepted money—have led the President to order the Ombudsman to investigate the allegations.

"During my interaction with Ms Rodrigo, I may have mentioned allegations regarding lobbying and possible bribery, the information of which I received from text messages," Nuñez admitted.

"It's sometimes so hilarious how a small thing (can be) elevated to such heights," she said, adding that Rodrigo took a "a small comment and made it huge."

"Bing Rodrigo, I consider (her) a dear friend, but I don't think it was right for her to start pointing (accusing) fingers at anyone," she said when asked how she felt about the daughter of the late Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she "was grateful to Nuñez for the clarification but I still think the investigation should go on." She had earlier implied that if opposition lawmakers pursued an investigation, it would backfire on them.

In an "official statement" that she read on the air, Nuñez denied working for the reinstatement of the franchises "whether in both houses of Congress or with the Office of the President."

Nuñez said she is "apolitical and (not) associated with the past administration, nor am I a lobbyist for any cause."

Meeting Marcelo

She admitted being a "close friend" of Pacifico Marcelo, owner of the Philippine Communication Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc., the two firms at the center of the controversy.

She said she met Marcelo "in one of my social meetings."

"He, incidentally, mentioned the telecom franchise, which had been pending for quite some time. In my desire to help a friend . . . in verifying the status of his pending telecom franchise, I took the initiative of going to Malacañang," she said.

She said her only participation in the affair "was really to find out the status" of the request for reconsideration of the veto.

She confirmed that she met Gabriel Claudio, presidential legislative liaison officer, only once "through the intercession of Ms Bing Rodrigo, who arranged for the said meeting."

She said she asked Rodrigo to arrange the meeting "since Ms Rodrigo is a close acquaintance and personal friend of mine, and (she) acceded to my request," Nuñez said.

She maintained "that my inquiry with Secretary Claudio was neither influenced, nor requested by anyone, but was done of my own free will and solely for the purpose of inquiring about the status of the telecom franchise which I was told was then pending with the Office of the President."

Claudio informed her that the franchise bill was vetoed and could not be rescinded.

Nuñez said she "never went back to Malacañang after that meeting and did not thereafter do anything involving the said telecom franchise, much more lobby for it."

She also denied speculation that she had been pressured to withhold information on the matter, saying "I'm too far away from everything." *With a report from Martin Marfil*

On the air, Gloria tells Mike: Shut up

(From page A1)

man Mike Arroyo confided: "*Hindi na ako puwedeng magsalita* (I'm not allowed to talk anymore). I will hire a spokesperson."

This reporter was anchoring the radio program "Mata ng Aguila" that morning. First in the line of interviewees was Arroyo, who had planed in only hours earlier from the United States.

The operation center of dzEC didn't actually expect Mr. Arroyo to answer his cellular phone because staff members thought he might still be catching up on his sleep.

But he did take the call and agreed to grant a live interview although he was obviously tired, and, as he said, "still suffering from a jet lag."

I began the interview by greeting him and President Macapagal-Arroyo on their 33rd wedding anniversary. I asked the President's husband if he had already bought flowers for his wife.

"I've already ordered three white roses and thirty red roses," he answered, speaking in Filipino.

Then I asked him about the controversy sparked by text messages claiming that he had accepted a large bribe to work for the reconsideration of vetoed telecommunications franchise bills.

"Ah, there's no such thing. The truth is that I returned to be here for our anniversary," Arroyo said in Taglish.

I changed the subject, sensing his apparent uneasiness, and asked him about the results of his medical checkup in the United States.

Arroyo was about to respond when a female voice in the background was overheard—on air. A few more lines and the voice became clearer: It was the President telling her husband to end the interview.

"Sure, stop these interviews *na*!" the voice said.

Arroyo addressed the voice, explaining that he was being asked about his medical checkup.

But the female voice shouted: "They don't mind (or care), stop these interviews!"

'Let's make this quick'

Mr. Arroyo was gentlemanly enough to return to the interview.

"*Paspasin na lang po natin ito* (Let's make this quick)," he told me.

Then he went on to explain that he had a pinched nerve in his foot that was making walking difficult, and that doctors had injected him with medicine so he could walk without limping. He added that they would monitor his condition for three months and that if the problem didn't go away, he would probably require surgery.

I wanted to continue the interview, so I asked him if there was a possibility that he might have to return to the United States for an operation.

He answered: "*Oo nga*, within three months *kailangang magpa-check up uli*. OK? *Pagod na ako*. Next time *na lang*. (Yes, I'll need another check-up in three months' time. I'm tired. Let's continue this next time.)"

End of on-air interview.

Hiring spokesperson

During a 7 a.m. news break handled by another anchor, I dialed Mr. Arroyo's number again.

He responded and told me: "*Sa susunod na lang uli* (Let's talk another time)."

"OK *lang po kayo*?" I asked him, realizing that he had no idea that the earlier exchange of words had been broadcast live.

"*Hindi na ako puwedeng magsalita*. I will hire a spokesperson," he said, but promised to grant another interview once "everything has been cleared."

Minutes after the dzEC interview, radio station dzRH called Mr. Arroyo.

He answered the phone, but a few seconds later, President Macapagal came on the line and ended up being interviewed by broadcaster Joe Taruc.

The President asked that her husband be excused, saying he had other important matters to attend to.

Later Thursday, Malacañang announced that Arroyo would appoint his own spokesperson.

Shoot from the hip

Ms Macapagal yesterday said that she was the one who "suggested" that her husband be given a spokesperson because "he's fair game right now for the media."

"I come from a political family. I know how to roll with the punches but my husband, you know, as you have seen, if his integrity is assailed, he can shoot from the hip, and I think that I would rather that this will not happen," the President said.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco, who is reportedly being eyed for the job, said in a radio interview that "I have not yet been designated the official spokesperson for the First Gentleman although I'm ready to take the job."

There is also talk that Mr. Arroyo will soon end, or at least suspend his career in radio. It is reportedly being discussed whether his weekly program on dzRH should continue. *With a report from Martin Marfil*

ANNOUNCEMENT

To All SSS Members

In view of our commitment to public service, all SSS Branch Offices will be open to serve you on Saturday and Sunday, August 4 & 5, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Evil versus evil

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo isn't too pleased over the impatience of the United States to see an end to the long-drawn-out crisis in Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf continues to keep in captivity at least two Americans and 17 Filipinos. Ms Macapagal reminded the US government that it hardly did any better in solving the abduction of Patty Hearst, the wealthy heiress who was kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army in 1974 and joined her captors before being arrested one year later. She was reacting to a report that US Secretary of State Colin Powell had expressed concern over the government's inability to end the crisis during a meeting with Vice President Teofisto Guingona last week in Vietnam.

Anyone in her position would resent any suggestion that the government is not doing enough to free the hostages, if that was what Powell was hinting at. Not the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Upon hearing Powell's remark, the military immediately announced that it would finish the job in a month's time. The crisis will be over soon, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan promised reporters.

And what makes them so confident that they can get back the hostages if not wipe the Abu Sayyaf off the face of the earth? Nothing really, as far as the public can discern. Indeed it would be foolish to place any bets on the military beating its self-imposed deadline. One month after the crisis began on May 27 with the abduction of 20 tourists and security personnel of the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, the military was talking of winding up its operation to free the hostages in a matter of days. "We are looking forward to a decisive battle in the next few days," Adan said. Since then the Abu Sayyaf has been running rings around its pursuers, leaving the government searching for excuses for its failure to free the hostages or decimate the ranks of the Abu Sayyaf.

This time, Adan's optimism appears to spring from the results of the government crackdown on suspected members and supporters of the Abu Sayyaf. The crackdown launched on July 13 has led to the arrest of about 100 suspects, half of whom have been charged in court. "We are neutralizing the support structure that sustains the Abu Sayyaf," Adan said.

The other side of the coin is that the military is turning into enemies some innocent people and their sympathizers with wrongful arrests and human rights abuses. For instance, when Army Scout Rangers swooped down on Barangay Tinambakan in Lamitan, Basilan, last week, terrified villages saw 11 of their neighbors being dragged out of their houses and kicked and boxed before being taken away in trucks. In another incident, teachers from the Basilan National High School stormed the office of the AFP's Task Force Comet to demand that their principal, Isah Ibrahim, be stricken off the list of suspects. Ibrahim has been described as a dedicated teacher by the DECS regional director. Jose Manuel Mamauag, director for Western Mindanao of the Commission on Human Rights, said 30 among those who have been arrested bore signs of manhandling and torture. One's ear was torn with pliers, Mamauag said. Another had cigarette burns on his nipples. One was doused with hot water and several others had bruises in different parts of their bodies.

Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos has denied that soldiers were guilty of any human-rights violations. "We are doing everything according to the legal process," he insisted. But Adan, who spoke earlier, wasn't so categorical. Although he stressed that the military doesn't condone human rights violations, he said that "we cannot allow the emasculation of our soldiers with threats of human rights complaints that will make them ineffective." Then he added in reference to the Abu Sayyaf: "These people are vicious and evil. Let's put these charges in the proper context: we are fighting a war, a vicious war."

It's a vicious war indeed, and the government is fighting an evil band of terrorists. Nothing the government troops have been accused of doing comes close to the atrocities committed by the Abu Sayyaf who have pulled out the nails of a priest, raped some women and beheaded several hostages. But why should the conduct of the troops be measured against that of the members of the Abu Sayyaf? Why should soldiers descend to their level of viciousness and evil?

The Abu Sayyaf fights dirty. But soldiers are not supposed to fight dirty too. For if they did, what would make them different from their foes? And what moral ground would they have to claim the loyalty and support of the citizens they are sworn to defend? If this is the way soldiers fight, they may win this engagement but they will never win the war. Human rights abuses are always fertile ground for rebellion.

Examining the examiner

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WITH THE ANNUAL bar examinations again scheduled next month, I would like to make the following observations for whatever they may be worth. I had written these views in 1998 but deferred publishing them then so as not to embarrass the chair of the bar examinations committee.

After the test on Political Law and International Law that year, I attended the meeting sponsored by the UP Law Center for the discussion of the answers. On hand were a selected number of professors and reviewers on the subjects from the various law colleges.

The identity of the examiners is not supposed to be revealed until the bar results are released several months after the examinations. As early as that first test, however, we were already certain that the questionnaire was prepared by a person who had not taught the said subjects or at least was not familiar with them.

There were several give-aways.

For one thing, the examiner spoke of "the election returns and disqualifications" of the parties before the Electoral Tribunals when the constitutional phrase dating back to the Commonwealth charter, and known to experienced professors on the subject, is "the election, returns and qualifications."

For another, he asked for the distinctions between *de jure* and *de facto* recognition of *states*, which must have befuddled the candidates, who knew better. The distinctions apply to recognition of *governments*, not states.

In one problem, he said that the "budget" contained an authorization to transfer savings from one item to another, when he should have said "the general appropriations law." Professors in Political Law take care to emphasize the difference between the two measures, which evidently was unknown to the examiner.

That problem about self-incrimination was also confusing. The facts were unclear and we had to guess at what the examiner wanted from the candidates. I seriously suggested that the question be disregarded on the basis of the "void-for-vagueness" rule under the due process clause. At the very least, that number should have been graded leniently in fairness to the examinees.

One question was especially revealing, not to say unreasonable. The examinees were asked to indicate when certain rules applied to only corporations with original charters or to corporations and their subsidiaries as well. No professor of Political Law ever quibbles about this matter, nor could the conferees answer the questions offhand. We had to consult the applicable constitutional provisions but the examinees did not have that advantage.

That's the trouble with choosing examiners who are not experts on the subject assigned to them. A tax lawyer may be comfortable in his field of specialization but he could hardly be competent to test the candidates on Criminal Law. A litigator would be qualified to be an examiner in Remedial Law but would not be as expert in Labor Law or Mercantile Law.

It would also help if the examiner had teaching experience because he would know what reasonable questions to ask as a gauge of the student's knowledge. There are standard lessons in every subject that are taught in the reputable law schools and are assumed to have been learned by the examinees.

The examinations are supposed to determine what the candidates know, not what they do not know. An examiner who has not taught is likely to test them on what they have not learned since he does not know what they have learned.

At one time, for example, the examinees were asked to define the "writ of *amparo*." The examiner obviously did not know that nobody had ever heard of that writ in the law schools. Law students are taught the writs of *certiorari, mandamus*, prohibition, *quo warranto* and *habeas corpus* but not of *amparo*. That writ is not even mentioned in our Rules of Court.

In another examination some decades ago, the examiner simply copied the questions in a quizzer, without even bothering to change the names in the problems he reproduced in his questionnaire. Worse, the problems referred to old cases and not the latest jurisprudence the reviewers had taken pains to stress.

That examiner, incidentally, was a justice of the Court of Appeals but as was apparent from the questions he copied was not conversant with the subject assigned to him. The poor candidates had to suffer because of his ineptness. A knowledgeable examiner with a less imposing title would have been preferable.

If I might digress, I believe the Supreme Court should discontinue the practice of appointing members of the judiciary as bar examiners because the task of correcting the papers will consume much of the time they should devote to their caseload. I'm not sure either if they can collect honoraria for their extra-judicial services in view of the constitutional prohibition against additional or double compensation unless specifically authorized by law.

The bar examiners are chosen by the chair of the bar examination committee without the participation or approval of the rest of the Supreme Court except possibly the chief justice. I sat on the high tribunal for more than eight years but did not know any of the examiners until after the bar results were released. I was appalled by the appointment of some persons who in my opinion were not fit to be examiners, but it was too late to protest.

Given the manner of constituting the bar examination committee, I respectfully submit that the chair and the chief justice should exercise extraordinary care in the selection of its members. The bar candidates are entitled to expect that every one of the examiners, who have the power to block their career, is competent to test them.

Studied and then discarded

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

COMES now the government's gross income tax scheme. It is being touted (no specifics yet, mind you) as the answer to everyone's prayers. Just think: there is something in it for everybody.

The tax base increases, which means, *ceteris paribus*, that tax revenues will increase, pleasing the Department of Finance. At the same time, tax rates are expected to decrease, which will please the tax-paying public (there is talk about an individual not having to pay any tax at all unless her income is more than P75,000), and this is also expected to stimulate economic growth. This constitutes the sugar that will help the medicine—in the form of less allowable deductions—go down.

There is an additional benefit, its supporters claim: because it is a gross income tax, simpler and with less deductions to fight over with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, ergo there will be fewer occasions for harassment or collusion between tax collector and taxpayer and less opportunity for graft and corruption. Great.

So if it is so good, how come nobody thought of it before?

But that's just it: It has been thought of before. And after much thought and study and discussion, it was discarded.

This happened during the Ramos administration, you understand, which might as well be ancient history as far as the general public is concerned. But given their information overload (not necessarily relevant or even accurate), one can make allowances for the public's short memory.

What is difficult to understand is how come there doesn't seem to be any institutional memory as far as the government is concerned, particularly in the DOF, where the background papers and studies and record of proceedings are surely on file.

It is also difficult to understand how the likes of Speaker Jose de Venecia and businessman Raul Concepcion are now talking about it as if this were the first time they had heard of the idea. To the best of my recollection, "Sunshine Joe" was one of the advocates of the gross income tax at the time, having been convinced by its proponent, Rep. Rene Diaz who must have been chair of the House ways and means committee. It was De Venecia who also sold the idea to then Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo. And Ronnie Concepcion who is now against it, was then an advocate (at least he now sees the light).

And it was a presidential task force, formed early in the Ramos administration, which studied the feasibility of the Diaz-De Venecia baby. This group was tasked by Ramos to formulate a Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (billed as the mother of all tax reforms) for submission to Congress. That was a pretty formidable task, and Ramos brought together a pretty high-powered group from government and the academe to perform it. And the private sector (the major accounting firms, the business chambers, civil society) also got very much involved.

For high power, read Finance Secretary De Ocampo as chair, with members such as UP School of Economics dean Philip Medalla, Finance Undersecretary Nene Guevara, Congressional Planning and Budgeting Office head Romy Neri, Senate Tax Research Office chief Angel Yoingco, Philippine Institute for Development Studies president Pons Intal, Internal Revenue Commissioner Liway Chato, National Tax Research Center chief Vicente Quintos, UAP economics dean Emil Antonio, DTI Undersecretary Ernie Ordoñez, among others.

For active involvement, read 10—yes, 10—tax summits with the non-government sector.

With such formidable backers as Sunshine Joe, Diaz and De Ocampo, the task force exhaustively studied the gross income tax proposal, in consultation all the way with all interested and affected sectors. And what did they find? That the gross income tax was not the panacea it was made out to be.

Nene Guevara wrote a paper which summarizes the findings, which in effect were:

First, there was no certainty that revenues would increase. In fact, the likelihood was that they would fall. Using 1994 figures and assuming a flat tax rate of 15 percent with a P60,000 exemption for each taxpayer, it was calculated that total revenue would decrease, because the increase in revenue from business income taxes would be puny compared to the revenue losses from wage and salary income taxes.

There was no certainty either that potential disagreements and harassment would be reduced, simply because making gross income the tax base would create an entire set of new areas for potential disagreement, gross income being defined as gross revenue minus cost of goods sold. There might be disagreements over what constitutes "cost of goods sold" or even ascertaining what "gross revenue" would be in the first place (under-reporting).

Finally, there was no certainty that growth would be stimulated. It was noted that supply-side economics, which espoused drastic tax rate reduction, lost much of its steam because the results were short of expectations, using the United States as an example.

Thus, the question with regard to the gross income tax proposal should not be "If it was so good, why didn't they think of it before?" Rather, it should be: If they discarded it before, why are they even considering it again now?

A waste of time.

Good luck to Cora de la Paz

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IF Malacañang really felt that embattled Social Security System president Vitaliano Nañagas had to go, the appointment of Corazon de la Paz was a wise choice. A longtime member of the business community, De la Paz, who retired as chair of the Cunanan-Price Waterhouse accounting firm, has enjoyed its respect and was active in many causes that served the nation well. My only concern is whether she can tame the raging bull that has emerged from the ranks of the SSS officials and employees, without giving up at some point. Good luck, Cora.

The removal of Nañagas is controversial and a cause for worry. There are those, including Sen. Manny Villar, who say the Palace shouldn't have caved in to pressure from SSS employees, who were obviously being manipulated by some unscrupulous officials and the Left. The fear is that by caving in to pressure from the rank and file, the government has set a precedent in the bureaucracy.

* * *

Some SSS officials, led by executive vice president Horace Templo, were mainly concerned about an investigation initiated into some deals made during the Estrada administration, when they consented to the use of billions in SSS funds for investments in some crony firms. These findings were borne out by an audit made by a private firm. The rank and file, on the other hand, were mainly worried that they'd lose their jobs in the planned privatization of the pension firm. The employees, who have gotten used to being coddled, also resented the blunt management style of Nañagas. The selfish interests of SSS officials and employees fused in the fight against Nañagas.

* * *

The former SSS chief was an honest and well-meaning guy who only meant to institute reforms. There is a hard lesson to be learned from this episode about managing people well. The Palace obviously felt that Nañagas had to be sacrificed in order to put an end to the nationwide paralysis at the SSS.

The Palace directive to De la Paz to charge three top officials believed to have manipulated the pension funds for the Estrada gang is a signal in the right direction, even as the new chief seeks to heal the rift inside the SSS. She should be unrelenting in the prosecution of the wrongdoers.

* * *

Tension is said to run high in the Senate nowadays, as the majority and minority blocs remain at odds and hardly talk to each other, unlike in previous years when there was a lot of friendliness all around. Now barbs are being traded. For instance, Sen. John Osmeña's famous one-liner about the opposition's "Guns of August" having only *pulbura* and how the *kanyonero*, Sen. Blas Ople, has flown to Geneva to luxuriate in a cooler clime has been met with a sharp retort. Osmeña is now being referred to by the opposition as Tarzan for swinging from the Erap camp to Ms Macapagal's side.

* * *

The opposition is hedging on accepting the offer of Senate President Franklin Drilon to head some committees. Sen. Tito Sotto was quoted as saying that except for the foreign relations committee, those being offered to the opposition are "crumbs." I don't know how Sotto could regard the committees on agrarian reform, constitutional amendments, electoral reforms, women and youth as "crumbs." The opposition, whose members chaired many of those committees in the Erap regime, should accept the offer in the interest of statesmanship.

* * *

Did Bing Rodrigo retract? Not really, if you read the two statements she made to the media, read on Cito Beltran's program soon after the controversy started and then by her brother Boogie Rodrigo over ABS-CBN. In both instances, Rodrigo maintained that she heard ("*napag-alaman ko*") from sources about the involvement of Mike Arroyo and his friends. Now some quarters are saying she "retracted" her allegation. The trouble is that the political opposition and some media immediately began drawing conclusions that she was not prepared to make. She saw through the manipulation and said so. To understand how she felt, one has to realize that the friendship between the Rodrigos and the Macapagals go a long way.

* * *

Mike Arroyo seems to have come out of the controversy unharmed, but this episode should teach him that his exalted position as the first gentleman carries with it a lot of ramifications that could affect his wife—for good or bad. So he has to be extra-careful about everything he does, and his friends and relatives, if they mean well for him, have to be even more careful. They ought to leave him alone.

* * *

It has been estimated that had the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) franchise that was passed by the Erap House and the Senate very early in the Macapagal era (when things were still very much in disarray?) not been vetoed by President Macapagal, it would have been able to collect about P100 million a day. That's a lot of money for what's acknowledged to be "*tubong lugaw*."

Sotto resents the implication that the committee on public services that he chaired in the 11th Congress maneuvered to pass the franchise bill, but I read his privilege speech and it shouldn't surprise him that there's this suspicion. His speech raised more questions than it answered.

* * *

For instance, Sotto stated that a public hearing on the franchise bill was conducted on Jan. 29, 2001 and named a representative of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) as among those who attended it. But he did not mention any representative of the major players in the telecom industry, which buttresses the assertion of their officers that they were never invited to any congressional hearing on the PCCI bill. Had they been invited, they said, they would have objected vigorously to the creation of this clearinghouse that is superfluous since they already have interconnection arrangements with one another that they are happy about. All the more so that the industry people should have been invited since, as Sotto stressed, the proposed interconnection would be only on a voluntary basis. Why were the deliberations on the bill so hush-hush?

Sotto also said this alternative facility would have benefited the smaller telecom companies, which the big players are trying to run out of business. But interestingly, the small players in the Philippine Association of Private Telecom Companies (Paptelco) are one with the big players in opposing the alternative interconnection facility.

New tech for old vices

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS going to write another column entirely, but I'm writing this in an Internet café across Katipunan Avenue from the Ateneo, sitting in the midst of boisterous high school boys engaged in a particularly noisy game of Counterstrike.

The gunfire and explosives are bad enough, but the boys punctuate their game with shouts and expletives, high fives and "good-natured" cursing. It's all I can do to hear myself think, which is why, if I cannot escape them (not if I want to meet my deadline), I might as well join 'em…

I hadn't even heard of Internet gaming until I read an article in the August issue of Parents Magazine about it and how it has come close to becoming an "obsession" among our computer-savvy youth, especially boys.

Internet café owners interviewed for the article said as much as 90-70 percent of their business is drawn from Internet gaming. This must explain why every Internet café I've patronized is filled with young people. And here I was marveling at how young people had come to use technology to augment their education, with easy access to websites for information and e-mail for communication.

Now I know better. The Internet may have been born out of the concern of scientists around the world to keep communication lines open even in the midst of devastation, political repression or censorship. What a letdown they must feel to see the Internet being used mainly for the same ends that have preoccupied boys since time immemorial: goofing off to escape school and responsibilities.

* * *

EDUCATORS and parents interviewed for the same article expressed concern about the time and money the boys were spending on the games, as well as their short attention span and falling grades. The last was a particular concern since the boys are apparently spending too much time and losing precious hours of sleep to gaming, thereby disrupting their studies.

Some parents, said freelance writer Marian Martin, had even gone to the extent of confronting Internet café owners and demanding that they either close down entirely or refuse to entertain their sons. In one private school for boys in Quezon City security guards report that some boys would head for the nearest Internet café as soon as their family cars or school buses drove away.

But what's the difference between playing hooky to play Counterstrike, and skipping classes to play pool down the corner? My son, who is 21, still gets caught up from time to time in the Counterstrike fever. But he largely misspent his own youth in video arcades, those decrepit predecessors of Internet cafés, splurging his allowance on tokens to pretend he was shooting down aliens or driving Formula 1 cars on racetracks.

"When he starts failing, then it becomes a problem," a parent interviewed for the article said of her son. But should a parent's concern be confined only to grades and neglected schoolwork? From where I sit, I can glimpse an ongoing game of Counterstrike, and I have lost count of the number of "terrorists" who have been shot down, blown up, stabbed, choked and bludgeoned in the minutes it has taken to get to this sentence.

And to think our own parents once thought pool parlors were dens of corruption! Our brothers, friends and boyfriends may have learned to drink and swear, gamble and cheat while playing pool, but at least they rarely, if ever, ended up killing scores of strangers, even if only virtually.

* * *

INTERNET gaming is only one aspect of technology that young people have taken far beyond the original ends for which their elders conceived them.

I am currently hosting my sister and her family on a three-week visit, and in the course of their stay, a running theme has been how young people here have taken to cell phones and other communications technology with far more alacrity than their counterparts in the States.

My sister Chona and her husband Willy, for instance, are astounded that even grade schoolers now consider a cell phone indispensable. My brother-in-law was quite taken with his cell phone until a niece politely informed him that it was the same model her younger brother, who's in Grade 4 owns.

Willy recalls with amusement how US telephone carrier AT&T aggressively marketed some years back a "code number" that a subscriber could key in to any phone and automatically receive calls on that phone. That feature met with a strong response, but it quickly lost its market when cell phones came into vogue. "They never realized that customers would one day be able to carry their telephones with them wherever they go," he observed.

* * *

A FEW days ago, my niece Cesi, who goes to college in Montreal, told my daughter that she's going to miss using Miya's cell phone here because she doesn't own one herself. Miya was shocked. "How do you make calls?" she wanted to know.

"Hello," Cesi said. "There are such things as pay phones, you know. Where you drop a coin in a slot and punch in a number?"

Which reminds me of a scene from the movie "In and Out." A young model accompanies her actor-boyfriend to his rustic hometown, and when he leaves her inside a motel room, she tries to call for room service. But she's flummoxed when she finds herself facing an old-fashioned dial-phone, whimpering as she tries to push nonexistent buttons.

I have yet to get over the sight of my sister borrowing my phone, holding it in one hand and punching in a number with the other. "That's not a calculator," I told her exasperatedly. But it wasn't too long ago, either, that my children were laughing at me, marveling at how I was still texting them in full sentences, with punctuation at that.

Repetitive economics

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

YOU know of course that like practically everything else, we import wheat these days. But we used to produce the staple in Pampanga in the 17th century. At the time, flour and wheat were imported from China or Mexico, resulting in the high cost of bread. In order to lower the price, Gov. Diego de Salcedo had the staple grown in Pampanga.

Salcedo also established a large livestock ranch in that Central Plains province to ensure a steady supply of meat for the capital and the galleon. Pigs and carabaos were bred there as well as in Laguna and Pangasinan for the urban market. Sugar, corn and cotton, which at one point was considered superior to the imported, were also produced and sold in the markets of Manila. Fruit trees and hardwood also comprised an important part of agricultural production.

The primary product, grown all over the archipelago, was of course rice since this was the most basic staple. (I have yet to discover what are the reasons impediments to rice sufficiency cannot be corrected by any administration.)

The system of production does not appear to have evolved much. Textile for export and local use was woven by hand in the provinces, but Filipinos, instead of receiving a salary would turn over the finished products to the Sangley or whoever was financing them. (I understand this is the same system still in place in rice production.) These were later shipped to Mexico through the galleon, Gauze from Cebu was famous, bedspread from Lubang, blankets, cotton stockings, *medriñaques* and hammocks from Ilocos.

These trades offer a chance for local mayors to make a fortune since in their situation they could speculate and control the local markets. They monopolized the products, requiring the Filipinos to sell at a low price in order for the officials to obtain the greatest benefit when they were resold. (We all know fish is cheap in the provinces but middlemen rake in the profits while the fishermen cannot make both ends meet.)

Commerce because of the galleon trade was the linchpin of economic life. Since the expectation that spices found or grown here would rival those in the Moluccas did not pan out and the Spaniards did not have the necessary technology for extracting minerals unlike the Americans centuries later, trade was the easiest way of making a fortune. Natural calamities like typhoons proved to be another hindrance to agricultural development at the time. Fires such as the ones that destroyed Intramuros in 1630 and the Parian in 1628 were also impediments to economic development.

Earthquakes were another major worry. The first disastrous temblor early in the century practically leveled the city with aftershocks continuing for 70 days, forcing the residents to take refuge in improvised wooden shelters outside the walls. Another earthquake in 1645 again destroyed what had been rebuilt and two others, in 1677 and 1688, wiped out whatever economic growth had occurred.

It was a subsistence economy characterized by deficit spending (hmmm…why does this sound familiar?). The income could not support the military or the bureaucracy needed to maintain Spanish sovereignty. (How much corruption contributed to the problem would have to be the subject of a thesis.) The options were either to subsidize the colony or bury them in taxes. (You have to admit history really repeats itself.)

As a result, Mexico ended up sending economic aid called the *situado* on the yearly galleon. The problem was the irregularity of the arrival of the galleon. There were years like 1644 to 1653 when fear of Dutch attacks reduced the aid or it wasn't sent at all. One of the causes of the 1660 uprising was the delay of the *situado*, resulting in non-payment of the daily workers that cut the lumber for the galleon. (To be fair, the soldiers weren't paid either, making them very unhappy too.)

The *situado* at the start wasn't a fixed sum although the governors suggested repeatedly diverse amounts that they considered necessary for the maintenance of the islands. In 1675 it was fixed at P300,000 in silver and P50,000 in kind but the governors kept complaining that it wasn't enough. Oddly enough, Gov. Fausto Cruzat y Gongora managed to return to the treasury P1 million and declared that the subsidy could be lessened (which makes you wonder what the other ones were up to).

During the 17th century the laws and decrees regulating the Galleon Trade were promulgated. Space was allocated to the Spanish residents of Manila. This right came in the form of what was called *boletas* that specified a certain amount of allowable cargo. From 1605 a royal decree limited the capacity of the galleon. It could carry only P250,000 worth annually and import only P500,000 worth of goods. (This was the law; the reality was that there was a lot of smuggling going on, buying of *boletas* and overloading. The Dutch in 1600 were set to intercept an incoming galleon with what was rumored to carry more than a million pesos.)

A credit system was established through which one could embark on great commercial operations even if he didn't have the money. The system gave a tremendous advantage to the Obras Pias, especially Casa de la Misericordia which was controlled by the religious, the institutions that lent out money. (Eventually the Obras Pias became the basis for Monte de Piedad in the 19th century.)

Another system of credit among the traders was the purchase of merchandise from the Chinese under an agreement that allowed one to make repayments on the return of the galleon the following year. In effect the merchants expected not only to pay off their debts but to realize a profit as well as to reinvest. When the galleons didn't return on time or when sales were poor, fortunes were lost with the same facility as they had been made.

(Data from "Historia General de Filipinas")

Immersion

Vanessa A. Doctor

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

QUIAPO is a dangerous place. Here, *japorms* is not an option. Unless you wish to engage in a bloody struggle with some character coveting the contents of your bag, you know you shouldn't be there.

How many times did mom tell you not to set foot on Quiapo ever? You pretend not to remember. You want adventure anyway. "I'm a risk taker," you keep telling yourself like a mantra as you run toward an oncoming jeepney alongside about 50 other people looking for a ride.

"Ayoko na," you say to yourself. For jeepneys have passed and you still are there on the street. You want to cry.

Perhaps God took pity on you and finally you get a ride. Hallelujah! You could have taken a cab, but that would defeat the purpose. So you begin your journey to the place everyone seems to dread and adore at the same time. Quiapo is a puzzle and you want to know why.

After what seems like an eternity, you finally get off. The place spells *palengke* and chaos all over. But nobody seems to mind. Silence is definitely not in these people's vocabulary. It's amazing what one can discover in a place packed with street vendors, beggars, "rugby boys," prostitutes, Father Tropa wannabes, hecklers and con artists. At first glance, one is tempted to think that is **the crisis** in living color. The place comes close to one's idea of hell.

But as you unravel its mystery, you conclude that getting to Quiapo is worth all the risk because this is the place where you can buy almost anything you can think of at rock-bottom prices. It's like everyone's dream flea market, minus the comfort. You can even have an instant Harvard University diploma or any kind of fake ID. Students must be thrilled to know that they wouldn't have to spend many sleepless nights doing research and writing a term paper or thesis. Quiapo has them ready-made!

Quiapo is rich in culture. The polarity is extreme. If you wish to catch a glimpse of reality behind the pretense of Makati's high-rises, this is the place to be. It captures the lifestyle of one of every two Filipinos, struggling and poor. Quiapo is a *kapit-sa-patalim* society. You may feel pity for these people, but sympathy doesn't feed mouths. And the diversity in Quiapo's culture, no matter how colorful, laden, still amounts to the same thing: Third World poverty.

There's no need for the government to investigate its moral and social filth. A day in Quiapo is a slap in the face. You begin to question why President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo chose to put P10 billion into the Armed Forces modernization program. The administration seems to have stricken human development off its list of priorities.

This angers you. While you are waited on by the maid at home and your bare feet only touch marble floors or the most comfortable footwear, these people sleep on the streets on cardboard boxes and newspaper. They don't wear shoes, only old slippers. You get eight hours of sleep in a soft bed in an air-conditioned room and whine about your meager allowance. These people have to sell themselves, fool buyers with fake products, steal and even kill just to put *tuyo* and *kamatis* on the table.

Suddenly, Quiapo is not so amazing after all. You want to go home now. You hail a cab to take you away from this hellhole. "Take me back to the fantasy world I live in," you whisper.

You crave for silence. But the noise haunts you in your sleep.

Vanessa A. Doctor, 20, is a fourth year political science student at the Univeristy of the Philippines in Diliman.

Glass boxes

Nicole Marie V. Ignacio

IT'S amazing how seemingly insignificant things can make a lasting impression. Like one time when I looked out of the car window on the way to the mall, I realized that I was actually looking at the whole world. It was all out there.

I live in a secure little world where nothing tragic or controversial really happens. I'm in my giggly adolescent years when teenagers are not supposed to worry about the nitty-gritty of living—unless you consider acne, schoolwork and flirting nitty-gritty.

I was pretty much like that not too long ago. I left all the thinking, pondering and solving to the people involved. I thought: "Hey, let them have grey hair. Let me go back and sit in front of the idiot box and worship those clear-skinned people with perfect hair and teeth who endlessly sing about falling in love and partying."

But that day, I happened to catch a glimpse of a world I hardly knew. We were passing through a rather depressed part of Mandaluyong. I think you can figure out the things that I saw. The sight was painful. It was draining. And my thinking changed.

It used to be that when I didn't get my way, I'd rant and rage about how unfair life was. After that experience, I would quickly contradict myself and say, "You should be grateful enough for what you have. You're much better off than some people." After that, I'd feel better.

But lately that kind of mentality only makes me feel worse. The dark curtain has been raised from my mind and I can see through the window literally and figuratively.

What I see is not just poverty. Every time I pass by such places, I see signs of depression, violence, indecency, wasted youth—name it and it's there. It's as if I am watching a silent play but I can't go up the stage to change anything that I don't like. I can only watch and read the playbill, which says things like, "Three children—raped, sliced, diced" or "Manila poisoned by pollution" or "Rebels strike again" or "Economy dives."

I see all this because I live in a glass box. I see everything going down, although I'm quite safe inside. It's not that I enjoy watching everything in turmoil. In fact, I have always dreamed of solving these problems. Once, my mom heard my rantings and told me, "Anak, you can't solve the whole world's problems."

I've always known that, of course. But I never thought solving them is almost impossible. And I cannot stand knowing that. I'm stumped every time I am forced to admit that life is unfair. I just don't get it. I wonder why innocent people or even animals have to become the objects of some people's sick desires and end up in bloody pieces. Or why some religions and ideals clash so violently that they divide families, communities and nations. Or how sick and in need of special attention this planet is, but we don't give it the proper treatment. Or why there has to be such a great distance between the poor and the rich, or why so much inequality has to exist at all. Unfair. Unfair. Unfair.

I'm not sure what point I'm trying to make here. I'm not trying to pass myself off as a perfect citizen or a saint. There are so many different minds, different opinions that I know that not everyone will agree with me or think that I make sense. I'm not hoping for instant world peace or anything like that. I'm just suggesting that maybe all of us should could go outside our glass boxes and breathe the air outside.

I never really believed that we could move mountains. But we can at least start climbing those mountains because I'm certain greener pastures await us on the other side.

Nicole Marie V. Ignacio, 14, is a high school sophomore at St. Paul's College, Pasig.

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Lies, falsehoods and inaccuracies

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I WANTED to keep quiet and just allow things to come to pass. Being aware, however, of the existence of two "white papers" which are obviously the "unnamed sources" of your columnist, I was convinced that it would be a long series of articles by Ramon Tulfo. I now decide to take away from him and his "sources" the privilege of further thrilling newspaper readers with the suspense of what else there is to read in his forthcoming columns.

The "white paper" I am talking about was first circulated in 1995 by former Makati Councilor Bobby Brillante, who brought the 26-page material to the attention of then Rep. Bonifacio Gillego at the instance of Reynaldo Berroya, who was then detained at the ISAFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo for the kidnapping of Taiwanese businessman Jack Chou which I investigated and helped prosecute.

Another edition of the same "white paper" was distributed by Berroya himself upon his release from the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa just before the presidential elections of 1998.

First, please allow me to set the record straight on the lies, falsehoods and inaccuracies that Tulfo committed in his columns dated July 10, 12, 14, 17 and 19.

It is not true that I met my wife Alice while she was visiting her ex-husband, the late Reginald Hill, at the headquarters of the Metrocom Police Intelligence Service (MPIS). The truth is, Alice never visited Hill when he was detained since they were already separated at that time after Alice found out that she was a victim of a bigamous marriage, he being already a married man even when they first met. I also did not have an occasion to meet Hill because I was assigned with the Central Sector, PC Metrocom based in Camp Panopio on P. Tuazon, Quezon City, while he was detained at the MPIS in Camp Crame. Hill was among those who were convicted in the celebrated case of movie star Merle Fernandez (robbery and rape). The truth is, I met Alice on a blind date arranged by Roger Cuaderno some time in 1973 in Sunset Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila. Roger later became my brother-in-law when he married Alice's sister, Emma de Perio.

I absolutely had nothing to do with the death of Hill. It is a matter of record in the police blotter of Las Piñas that he and his brother Roberto died in a vehicular accident some time in April 1978 while driving a Toyota car (not run over as Berroya and Tulfo intentionally misled your readers to believe). Roberto died instantly while Reginald expired in a Las Piñas hospital. These facts can all be verified since they can be made available by the agencies concerned like the police, the hospital, the census (death certificate) and even insurance companies. Any responsible and conscientious journalist would have easily checked these facts instead of simply resorting to rumormongering since they are all matters of public record.

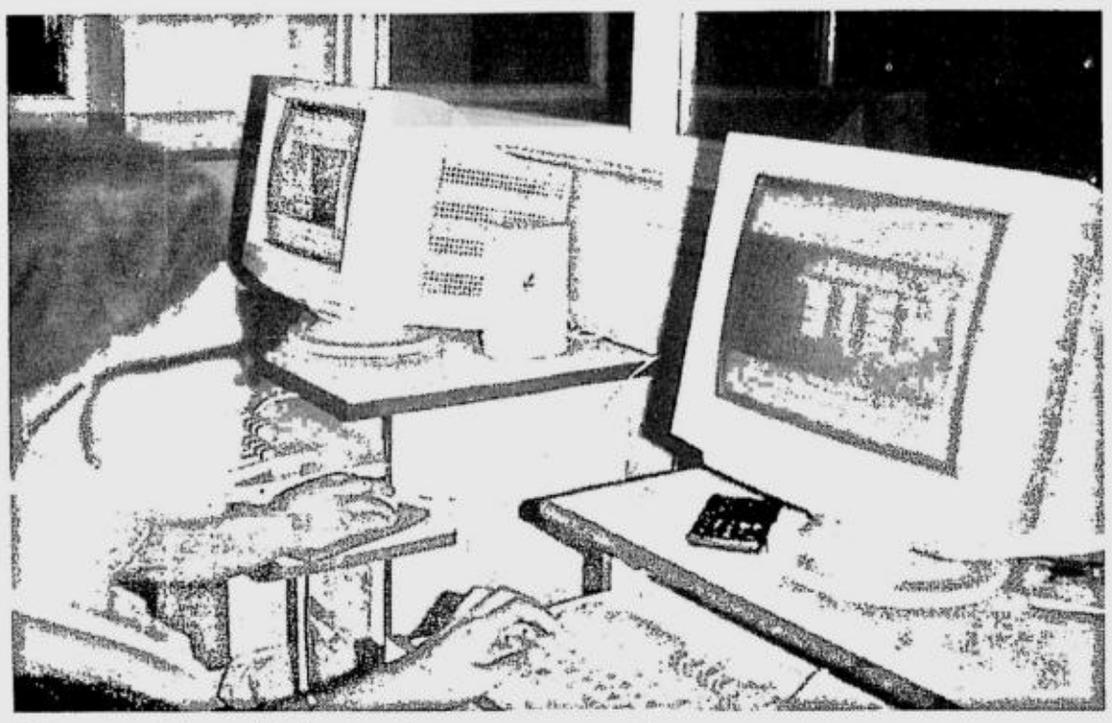
It is a lie that my son Ronald Jay was kicked out of the Philippine Military Academy. The truth is that my son resigned from the PMA since he never wanted to be a military officer. It was I who practically forced him to enter the academy since, like any alumnus of the PMA, it has been my dream that at least one of my sons would follow in my footsteps.

Regarding an expensive watch that Tulfo mentioned in his column, this much I can say: I have never stolen anything from anybody, living or dead. I never will!

On Tulfo's latest allegations involving the late Francisco "Kit" Mateo, again it is a mater of public record that Mateo executed a sworn affidavit belying all these allegations. I can recall that he and his wife Vina even held a press conference where they gave out copies of that affidavit to reporters.

Tulfo can go on and on and I am sure he will continue destroying my character and reputation, but I humbly appeal to the readers of your newspaper to be more objective in their judgment. I am not the demon that Tulfo wants so much to maliciously and viciously portray me.

In all my 30 years of military and police service, I made sure I served well, honestly, with integrity and utmost dedication. There were temptations of big money involved in my profession. I never wavered. Even now that I am a senator of this country I shall continue serving the public with honor and dignity like a true public servant.—**SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON**



Pimentel vs Internet pornography

I COMMEND Sen. Aquilino Pimentel for his sincere concern about the swelling pornography in the Internet. I've read his letter on this matter published in major dailies.

Pornography is indeed one of the devil's "marketing tricks" to drag many souls to hell. And it's very unfortunate that there are willing accomplices in the cyberspace business.

I love the Philippines for its traditional family values. And I lament the decay of the family in developed economies where pleasure, money and the self have replaced God as the ultimate end of life.

I am for a sincere crusade for genuine manliness, one which would go against the global tide that destroys anything decent, religious, moral and ethical.

Pagan Rome was saved by the Christian civilization. Now we need more than ever men and women who would stand up for their Christian principles, faithful to the teachings of the Church and Pope John Paul II.

I earnestly hope that the local Internet service providers in the Philippines would take a sincere and palpable stand against pornography. Otherwise, Philippine culture would find itself in a moral wasteland.—**ANDREW GILBERT GATES, it.com@altavista.com**

Sloppy job of hiding witness' identity

I READ in the papers recently that the lone eyewitness to the alleged Martilyo Gang "rubout" now fears for his life, after his face was clearly shown on GMA 7's "Emergency." I have noticed that many TV news programs try to mask the identities of witnesses or crime victims by electronically obscuring the person's face, but they do such a lousy job at it.

All too often, you don't have to try hard to make out the hidden person's features. I remember watching an interview of a rape victim whose face was covered by a black spot onscreen—only to see the subject's face clearly when she suddenly moved and "popped out" from behind the black blob. It was evident that the producers in the editing room weren't paying much attention to the footage before they aired it, or, they really didn't care.

I think it's appalling how these TV news shows betray the confidence and, in some cases, endanger the lives of people who agree to go on camera to tell their stories.

I realize that viewers pay more attention to the story when they see a person whose identity has been hidden—that's tabloid TV, for you—but if these news organizations really care about protecting the privacy and the lives of these people, they'd be less sloppy.—**RICHARD DE CASTRO, Merville Park, Parañaque City**

TINA keeps Vajpayee in office

NEW DELHI—His government beset by financial scandals and electoral upsets, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has once again proved the power of his trump card: there is no alternative as premier.

The situation was made abundantly clear over the past two days of high political drama in New Delhi triggered by Vajpayee's sudden threat on Tuesday to quit, saying he was no longer capable of controlling the fractious allies in his ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

NEWS ANALYSIS

Palash Kumar

"I cannot manage the NDA. I have grown old. I am also unwell. I should leave the chair," Vajpayee, 76, told a meeting of his Hindu-nationalist BJP party, which dominates the alliance.

As he got up from his chair and began slowly moving out of the room, in a chorus the BJP MPs raised their hands and said, "No, no, you can't do this."

"He was looking genuinely hurt," commented one MP.

A flurry of activity followed as senior ministers pleaded with Vajpayee to take back his resignation threat, provoked largely by allegations from one ally, the Shiv Sena, that the Prime Minister's Office was linked to a multimillion-dollar scam involving India's largest mutual fund.

An emergency meeting of NDA leaders on Wednesday passed a resolution voicing complete faith in Vajpayee and warning allies from speaking against the government.

"There is no leader other than Vajpayee who can lead the nation," said federal minister Ram Vilas Paswan after the meeting. Home Minister L.K. Advani, a hard-liner who is widely considered as a successor to Vajpayee, also showered praise on Vajpayee and warned erring allies to refrain from public criticism of government policy.

Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray added his own eulogy to the growing chorus. "I respect Vajpayee like anything...our support is there with the government. It has always been there and it is going to continue," he said.

In the end, Vajpayee surprised nobody by withdrawing his threat to resign.

"It was a bit of both the emotional Vajpayee and a bit of the strategist Vajpayee," said political analyst Mahesh Rangarajan. "He is an astute politician playing a weak hand. Resignation is his only trump card. But this card will give diminishing returns in the long run. At least until the government gets some successes under its belt."

The government has been plagued by a succession of political and financial scandals and it performed badly in elections in five states held in March. On the foreign policy front, the Indian premier failed to clinch a deal with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf during their summit meeting last month.

Down but not out, Vajpayee continues to survive due to his moderate image within the Hindu nationalist camp—a binding factor in India's intricate and unstable coalition politics.

Advani is most often cited as his immediate successor, but his hard-line policies make him an unacceptable leader to many of the more secular-minded NDA allies. Advani was in the forefront of a BJP-led campaign in 1992 which ended in the razing of the Babri Masjid mosque in northern India, an event that triggered some of the worst Hindu-Muslim violence since partition. He is still facing charges for his role in the mosque's destruction.

Another contender, Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh, is a moderate but does not enjoy the confidence of the NDA allies, while Human Resource Minister Murli Manohar Joshi is also seen as a hardcore Hindu leader with little following.

So the foundation of Vajpayee's survival is what political and media circles call TINA: There Is No Alternative.

"The TINA factor is the ace up his sleeve," said Rangarajan.

"This seems to be the only thing working in his favor consistently. He knows that and this is perhaps why he uses it to his advantage. But for how long, we will have to see." *AFP*

Full support for 'open skies'

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address said it all. She reiterated the government's policy of air liberalization, saying that its benefits have a firm place in the country's economic growth and its war against poverty.

We, the members of the Freedom to Fly Coalition, fully support the President's call. All over the world, the benefits of opening up air access and markets between neighbors have proven beneficial to their economies. These benefits include, among other things, increased seat capacity, lower airfare, increased number of tourist arrivals and better service. With these, the impact on the economy affects businesses, laborers and cascades all the way to our farmers and agricultural workers.

So clear are the benefits that our neighbors in the Association of Southeast Asean Nations and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation are lining up to open up their skies.

In fact, not only are our neighbors entering into bilateral open skies agreements, they have gone a step further with action (not just talk) on multilateral open skies agreements.

Unfortunately it does not seem to be the case for the Philippines. We are still in the dark ages, debating whether the privately owned Philippine Airlines is worth saving at the cost of the whole Philippine economy.

Whenever a move is made to implement Executive Order 219, which calls for increased air access into the country, groups aligned with protectionist interests move heaven and earth to delay it. They have tried to demonize open skies in the past, going as far as calling it a threat to national security. Having failed there, they now change tack and call for "progressive liberalization."

These groups fail to realize that open skies air agreements and progressive liberalization are one and the same: they are not negotiated overnight. This is the product of long-drawn-out discussions and negotiations between the parties involved, and in the end, it is always a win-win situation. We get as much air and market access as the other parties.

Amid all this bickering, a country like Vietnam which has nothing going for it—no airports, hotels, roads and tons of security and health problems—has overtaken our tourist inflow simply by increasing air access. Their own Air Vietnam is thriving in the competitive environment and expanding its operations.

It is said that the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Acting on a policy of liberalization is that first step for the long but necessary process of opening up our skies and fueling the much-needed recovery from this rut our economy is in.—**NARZALINA LIM, chair; MILA ABAD, president, Freedom To Fly Coalition**

'Chikiting Patrol' a Unicef awardee

LAST July 20 a front-page article written by Agnes Donato came out in your paper with the headline, "Only 11 of 74 kiddie shows get Unicef nod."

Quoting the Unicef TV guide, she wrote: "Foreign canned TV programs that are dubbed in the local language create confusion especially among young viewers." She went on to mention children's programs, including "Chikiting Patrol."

I believe that the Unicef TV guide did not mention "Chikiting Patrol" as a "foreign canned TV program dubbed in the local language" because the Unicef knows "Chikiting Patrol" as we regularly promote children's rights issues. Besides we were the recipient of the KBP-Unicef Alay sa Kabataan Award in 1999 as the best children's show for the year. "Chikiting Patrol" is a local production using local talents who speak mostly in Taglish.

Independent TV producers like the undersigned are spending a considerable sum to be able to produce quality children's programs. It is my firm belief that educational children's shows are a means to eradicate ignorance among our youngsters. All these years I continued to produce the show with my meager resources even if it is an uphill battle competing with station-produced programs.

Because of the difficulties we have with sponsors, we devised a marketing scheme where we incorporate a fast-food chain mascot in our show. The mascot serves as an added attraction to our children viewers. It does not in any way make the show commercialized as, there is no direct endorsement of any product. If other people (competitors) are offended because of this, then at least they should give credit to the ingenuity of the marketing scheme.

Our close to 14 years on the air speaks for itself. To date, "Chikiting Patrol" is the longest playing children's show on TV. We were recently awarded by the Southeast Asian Children's Television the Anak TV, the seal of worry-free children's shows. Only a few shows were given this award, and "Chikiting Patrol" is proud to be one of the few.

Your reporting has caused the undersigned undue stress because I had to explain to our advertisers this "faux pas." All the good and worthwhile things we think we have achieved in the past 14 years have been destroyed with one stroke of the pen. We feel we have been terribly maligned.—**NADEIA S. SARTE, producer, Chikiting Patrol Productions & Entertainment Inc., Unit 401 Seven East Bldg., East Capitol Drive corner Sta. Rosa Street, Kapitolyo, Pasig City**

THE LIST of children's TV programs that included "Chikiting Patrol" should have come after the paragraph which reads: "The research also cited 13 other programs, which were considered appropriate for children, but were found to have 'low production values and language accessibility.'" The paragraphs were jumbled in the processing and editing of the story. We apologize for the error.—**Ed.**

Wrong to pin blame on use of generic drug

THIS refers to Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca Jr.'s letter last June 28 titled, "Deaths caused by substandard drugs."

I am concerned about his irresponsible comment that the generic drug administered to the patient was the cause of death. As a physician, he should know that adverse complications are inherent and unpredictable during post-surgical management despite the administration of high dosage of drugs whether these are generic or the most expensive and sophisticated branded drugs. That is why a thorough medical examination and aseptic technique are employed to prevent adverse complications from arising.

We cannot discuss the full details of the case here, but Lesaca should at least have the decency not to put other people in a bad light by making sweeping statements without a first-hand knowledge of the case.

Why zero in on the use of the generic drug? If that particular generic drug was really defective, many would have suffered the same fate.

Lesaca sounds like he has an axe to grind with some people or he wants to stop the government from pushing hard for the use of generic drugs. The Department of Health and its regulating agency, the Bureau of Food and Drugs, should not be blamed since they are doing their job right. People like him don't seem to be supportive of the government's program but are merely fomenting fear about the use of generic drugs.

Lastly, he said that most of the complaints were coming from regional offices and government hospitals in the Visayas and Mindanao. I think that is not true because if there are problems with the use of the generic drugs, Luzon would be most affected since the majority of big government hospitals are situated in this part of the country. I suspect that he is merely trying to defend the four government doctors in Dumaguete City who were suspended recently by the Ombudsman due to conflict of interest for operating a cooperative pharmacy inside the hospital that competed with the hospital's pharmacy.

I would like to throw back the question to him: Who will ensure that the drugs are safe and, most importantly, affordable and accessible to the masses when there are inept and corrupt medical practitioners in our society?—**JOAN M. MARCELINO, RBL Bldg., Gen. Aguinaldo Street, Cubao, Quezon City**

No probe sought of raid in Misuari compound

THIS concerns the news item, "Gov't welcomes MNLF raps over raid on Nur's compound" which appeared last July 21, 2001 in the INQUIRER, where it was mentioned that I asked the Southern Command to conduct a separate investigation of the incident.

To set things straight, I never asked Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling to conduct an investigation of the incident, as I was already apprised that it was a purely police operation and the Southcom had nothing to do with it.

Raid or no raid, I would have gone and met with Camiling as the Southcom visit was part of my itinerary in Region 9. As the interior assistant secretary designated as special action officer on Mindanao affairs, I am beginning to hold dialogues with various sectors in the island, including the military, police, the *ulamas*, local officials and non-government organizations, to find out and assess the real situation there.

My visits to various places in Mindanao are part of the Department of Interior and Local Government's commitment to help bring the government closer to the people, and to fast track the implementation of our developmental and infrastructure projects there.

Lastly, I did not serve as a lawyer for the Moro National Liberation Front. I served as MNLF peace emissary to the government, chair of the MNLF secretariat and MNLF spokesperson during the GRP-MNLF peace talks from 1992 to 1996.—**ABRAHAM S. IRIBANI, MNSA, assistant secretary, Special Action Officer on Mindanao Affairs, DILG, Francisco Gold Condominium II, Edsa, Mapagmahal Street, Dilliman, Quezon City**

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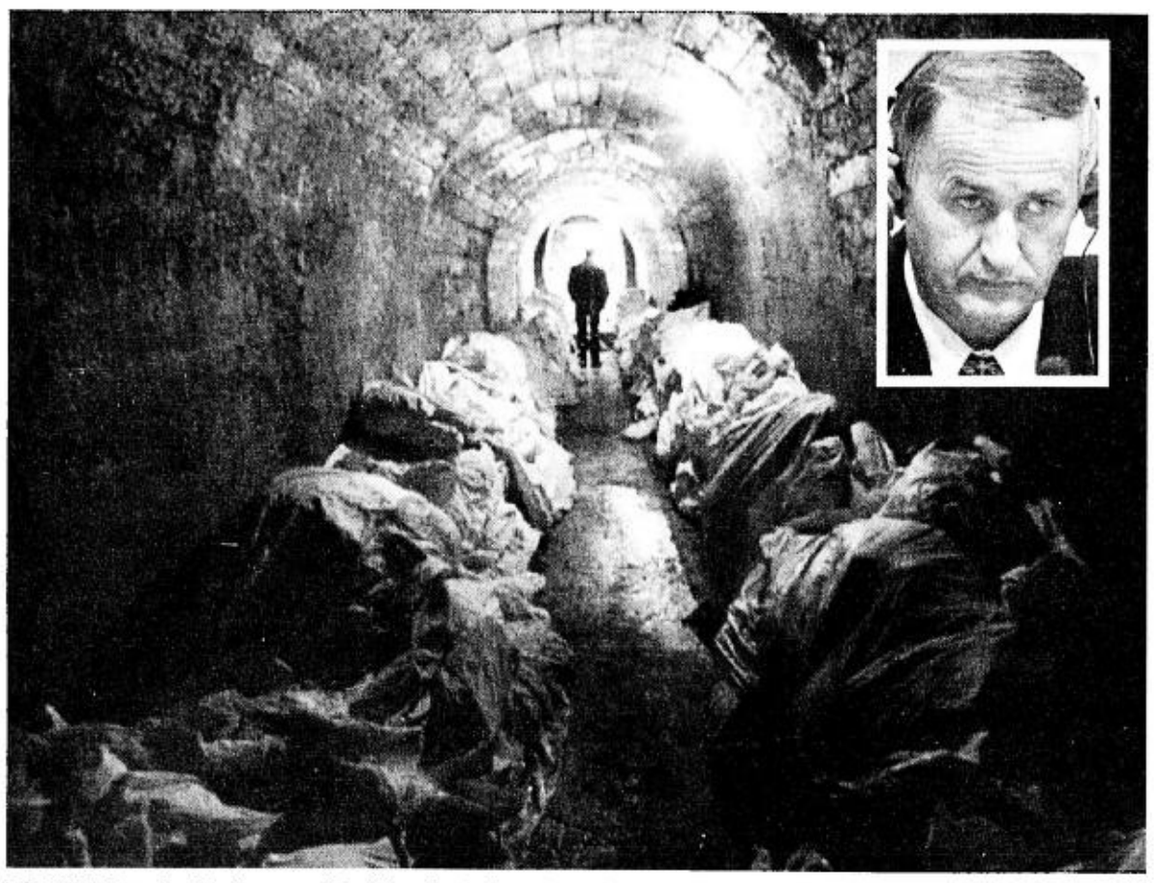
The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

UN court convicts 'evil' general



FORMER Bosnian Serb general Radislav Krstic (inset) was found guilty of genocide Aug. 2 at the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague for the murder of almost 8,000 Muslim men and boys after the fall of the UN-designated "safe area" of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia in July 1995. Stacks of unidentified corpses, found in mass graves and in wooded areas after the Srebrenica massacre, line the walls of an underground shelter in Tuzla in the March 1997 file photo shown above. REUTERS

THE HAGUE—The UN war crimes tribunal convicted Bosnian Serb general Radislav Krstic of genocide Thursday, describing his role in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of more than 7,000 Bosnian Muslims as "evil" and jailing him for 46 years.

The verdict marked the first time the tribunal has convicted anyone of genocide for atrocities committed in the former Yugoslavia.

The Srebrenica massacre was described by prosecutors as the worst atrocity in Europe since World War II, and 53-year-old Krstic had faced a maximum sentence of life in prison.

"In July 1995, General Krstic, you personally agreed to evil," Judge Almiro Rodrigues said. "You are guilty of the murder of thousands of Bosnian Muslims... You are guilty, General Krstic, of genocide.

"This is why the trial chamber convicts you today and sentences you to 46 years in prison."

The sentence, the longest yet handed down by the Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), fell shy of the eight consecutive life sentences prosecutors had demanded.

Survivors of the massacre reacted angrily that the general was not sentenced to life in prison, saying that even though he would be 99 should he serve his full sentence, a life term would have been symbolically important.

"We, survivors of the Srebrenica massacre, don't think that justice has been served with this verdict," Munira Subasic, who lost a son and a husband in the massacre, said in Sarajevo. "I was bitter when I heard the verdict. He should have been sentenced to life."

However, many Bosnian Serbs expressed indignation at the verdict.

"If I was in power I would not put Krstic on trial, I would give him an award," Zoran, a 27-year-old car mechanic, said in Banja Luka, the main town in the Bosnian Serb entity of Republika Srpska.

Florence Hartmann, spokesperson for ICTY chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte, meanwhile, hailed the court's ruling.

"This decision is very important and makes it clear for everyone that Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic should be transferred to The Hague," she said, referring to the former Bosnian Serb leader and his military chief.

The two have been jointly indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes during the 1992-95 war in Bosnia and specifically for the Srebrenica massacre.

Del Ponte added: "The trial chamber is convinced beyond reasonable doubt that a crime of genocide was committed in Srebrenica."

According to the UN Security Council resolution which established the tribunal, genocide is defined as "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group..." *AFP*

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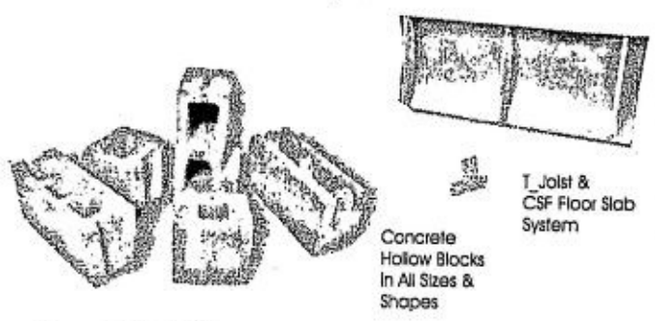

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640-04-47

Japan crime index hits record high

TOKYO—The number of crimes reported in Japan rose to a record high during the first six months of this year as car thefts and juvenile delinquency increased, according to a government study.

The study released Thursday by the National Police Agency also showed that the arrest rate in Japan fell to a record low during that period, indicating that police in this relatively law-abiding country are struggling to keep up with the increase in mostly nonviolent offenses.

The number of crimes reported during the first half of 2001 climbed 15.9 percent from to the same period a year ago to 1,288,381 cases, while the arrest rate slipped to 19.0 percent from 25.3 percent, the study said.

"Crimes are occurring faster than we can make arrests," NPA Director Setsuo Tanaka was quoted by Japanese news media as saying at a news conference Thursday. "We don't have sufficient resources."

Almost 90 percent of the crimes were thefts.

The number of cars reported stolen jumped 3.9 percent, which police blamed on organized criminal groups targeting luxury vehicles that are smuggled outside Japan for sale on black markets.

The increase in nonviolent crimes is in part a reflection of Japan's prolonged economic downturn, said Takeshi Tsuchimoto, a former public prosecutor who teaches law at Teikyo University.

Only 9,410 incidents—or 0.7 percent of the total—were classified as serious crimes, a category including murder, assault and robbery.

But that figure, though relatively small, was up 23.3 percent from the first half of 2000, with armed robberies accounting for much of the jump. In March a pistol-wielding robber in a Tokyo suburb ambushed a bank vehicle carrying a consignment of cash and got away $290,674. *AP*

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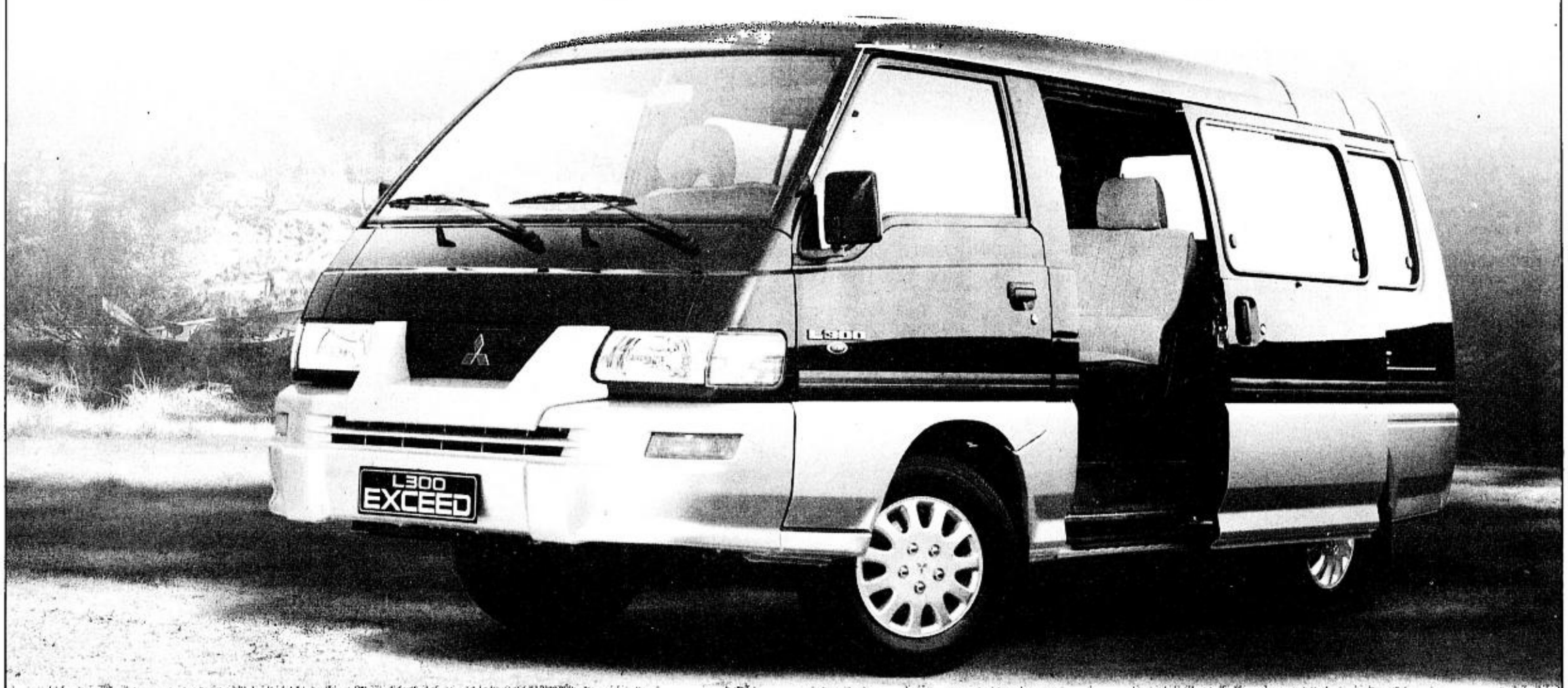

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Car bomb blast jars west London, hurt 7

LONDON—A car bomb ripped through a bustling area of west London near midnight on Thursday, wounding seven people in an attack that police said bore all the hallmarks of the Real IRA guerrilla splinter group.

The deafening blast generated a sheet of flame, sent up a large plume of smoke, blew out windows in local shops and homes and caused panic among revelers spilling out of bars.

A water main burst, flooding the street.

"It took me off my chair," said Alan Joyce, who was drinking in a nearby pub at the time of the explosion.

"I ran out of the pub to see what happened. The whole place was just chaos," he told Sky News.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alan Fry, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the attack resembled others in London and in Northern Ireland committed by the Real IRA, which broke away from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in 1997.

The Real IRA rarely claims responsibility for its attacks.

"This was a calculated evil act by people who are seeking to maim and kill," Fry told reporters. "We are extremely fortunate that people were not killed here last night."

Northern Ireland's IRA is observing a ceasefire as part of a peace process after 30 years of fighting between Roman Catholics and Protestants in the British province.

But splinter groups like the Real IRA oppose the 1998 peace deal and choose important moments in the process to launch spectacular attacks in Northern Ireland and on mainland Britain.

This week, rival parties in the province are studying a new "take-it-or-leave-it" proposal from Britain and Ireland that would cut British troop numbers but requires the IRA to disarm.

The car bomb was planted in a busy street in an area full of pubs and clubs near the Ealing Broadway railway station.

Seven people, including a policewoman, were taken to Ealing hospital for treatment, none with critical injuries. Only four were detained overnight, one with a broken collar bone.

Hospital spokesman Simon Payne said all had been within 30 meters of the blast. "All the patients are stable, none are critical. All the injuries have been as a result of flying glass and debris," he said.

Police received a warning about half an hour before the bomb exploded in a gray Saab car parked near the station. They said the warning named a road that does not exist.

Police cordoned off the area amid concerns that a second device may have been left nearby.

"You will see later the very substantial damage that has been caused to windows over a wide area... the car is totally destroyed," Fry said. "It is fortunate indeed that we are not dealing with mass murder and people critically injured."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, on an official visit to Latin America, condemned the violence.

"The prime minister believes the way forward in Northern Ireland can only be through dialogue and that is why the government has put forward its proposals this week and hopes they will be considered in a fair and considered way," Blair's spokesperson told reporters in Mexico City.

British army experts defused a large car bomb at Belfast's international airport on Wednesday, and police said a telephone caller claimed the Real IRA had planted the explosives.

The state broadcaster BBC's complex in west London was the scene of a taxi bomb explosion on March 4, which anti-terrorist police linked to the Real IRA. It was also held responsible for a grenade attack on London's MI6 headquarters last year.

Fry said analysts estimated the latest blast was at least 40 kg of homemade explosive, similar to the BBC bomb, but about twice as large. *Reuters*

A SHOPPING street lies in ruins after an explosion in the west London suburb of Ealing Broadway early Aug. 3 which injured seven people. Security experts said the dissident Northern Irish Real IRA guerrilla group was responsible for the blast. REUTERS

Wahid back home, vows to fight for democracy

JAKARTA—Deposed president Abdurrahman Wahid returned to Indonesia Friday 11 days after parliament sacked him, vowing to fight for democracy and reiterating that his ousting was unconstitutional.

Some 70 supporters were at Jakarta's international airport to welcome Wahid, who was ousted July 23 and replaced by vice president Megawati Sukarnoputri.

He had initially refused to leave the presidential palace, protesting that his sacking was unconstitutional, but on July 26 departed for a medical check up in the United States.

Asked if he was resigned to his fate, Wahid told reporters: "Those who have violated the constitution must face the people."

The man who became Indonesia's first freely elected president has pledged now to lead a movement to preserve the country's nascent democracy.

"I will open a clearing house in Ciganjur (his private home in South Jakarta)," Wahid told reporters. "All people who feel that democracy is not working and that human rights are being violated, report to me."

Two dozen uniformed members of the Nahdlatul Ulama, the mass Muslim organization which Wahid formerly headed, formed a guard of honor as he arrived.

"*Salamat datang guru bangsa*" (Welcome to the nation's spiritual teacher) read one banner displayed by supporters including leaders of his National Awakening Party.

"*Salamat datang* (welcome) the people's president," read another placard.

Supporters gave the ex-president an emotional welcome as he emerged from the VIP terminal. Some presented bouquets and one hung a flower garland around his neck.

His spokesperson said Wahid would head directly to Ciganjur.

It was unclear whether he would follow plans later in the day to give a political speech at the Proklamasi monument in the city center, as announced by the official Antara news agency, which quoted homecoming organizers.

Wahid, who turns 61 on Saturday, suffered two strokes before assuming the presidency in October 1999 and is clinically blind. Doctors at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins Hospital found his condition to be stable. *AFP*

FUJIMORI

Int'l arrest order for Fujimori out

LIMA—A top judge issued an international arrest warrant Thursday for disgraced ex-President Alberto Fujimori on charges of abandonment of office and dereliction of duty.

Supreme Court Judge Jose Luis Lecaros told reporters he had issued the order after Fujimori, who fled to Tokyo late last year, failed to appear for scheduled court hearings. The charges could be punishable by up to two years in prison.

"If he is located and arrested in Japan and the police inform us, we will file the papers for extradition," Lecaros said.

But Peru and Japan have no extradition treaty, and officials in Tokyo have indicated they would not force his return. It appeared unlikely that Japan would arrest Fujimori.

In Tokyo, an official at Japan's Foreign Ministry said the arrest warrant for Fujimori will not change Tokyo's stance against handing him over to Lima.

He said the arrest orders would make no difference. Japan has repeatedly said it could not extradite Fujimori because he is protected by his dual Japanese and Peruvian nationality.

"We will respond according to Japanese law," the official said.

Asked if this meant Fujimori cannot be extradited because he is a Japanese citizen, he said: "That would depend on the situation, but, generally speaking, that is what it means."

Japan, which does not usually extradite its nationals, has recognized Fujimori as Japanese because his name was entered in a family register in Japan after his parents emigrated to Peru in the 1930s.

In any case, the two nations have no extradition treaty.

Top government spokesperson Yasuo Fukuda said Japan would first have to verify that the arrest warrant had been issued to know what Japan's response would be.

After 10 years of autocratic rule, Fujimori fled to his parents' native Japan in November amid mounting corruption scandals involving his former intelligence chief, Vladimiro Montesinos.

Congress ignored a resignation sent by Fujimori and, instead, fired him on constitutional grounds of moral unfitness.

Fujimori was granted Japanese citizenship, putting him out of the immediate reach of Peruvian authorities, who have repeatedly called on Japan to turn over the ex-president but have not made an official extradition request.

Fujimori has denied any criminal wrongdoing but he says he does not plan to return to Peru because he would be subjecting himself to a political circus.

Pressure has been mounting for the extradition of the 63-year-old former autocrat since Venezuelan authorities arrested Montesinos.

But Peruvian officials have conceded they will need stronger charges to persuade Tokyo to hand Fujimori over.

Peruvian authorities are looking into allegations from Fujimori's ex-wife that he skimmed $12.5 million in donations from Japan that were destined for a Peruvian children's foundation in 1990. *AP and Reuters*

Alzheimer's vaccine with mice successful

NEW YORK—Researchers at New York University have successfully vaccinated mice genetically-engineered to contract Alzheimer's disease to inhibit the spread of the disease, according to a study published Thursday.

In The American Journal of Pathology, the researchers detailed how the vaccine, modeled on a fragment of a protein called amyloid, frequently implicated in causing Alzheimer's, reduced the amount of amyloid plaque in the rodents' brains by 89 percent.

"Our study clearly shows that the vaccination approach is a powerful one that shows great promise for Alzheimer's disease," said Thomas Wisniewski, one of the study's authors.

"And significantly, our approach appears to be non-toxic."

Clinical trials on humans could begin as early as next year, the researchers said.

Currently another vaccine against Alzheimer's disease is in a round of clinical trials, but the NYU researchers say that vaccine could be toxic to nerve cells in the brain.

"We believe that our peptide vaccine isn't toxic to nerve cells because it doesn't aggregate into clumps; it remains in solution," said Blas Frangione, another author of the study.

Alzheimer's disease involves a progressive destruction of nerve cells, particularly in the area of the brain vital to memory and learning.

Researchers used 11-month-old mice genetically-engineered with a human gene for Alzheimer's and found that over seven months round plaques of amyloid protein were reduced by 89 percent. They further found that the vaccine reduced the amount of soluble amyloid beta in the brain by 57 percent. *AFP*

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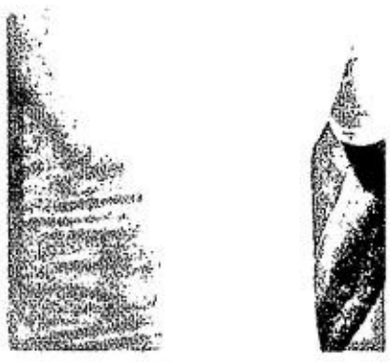

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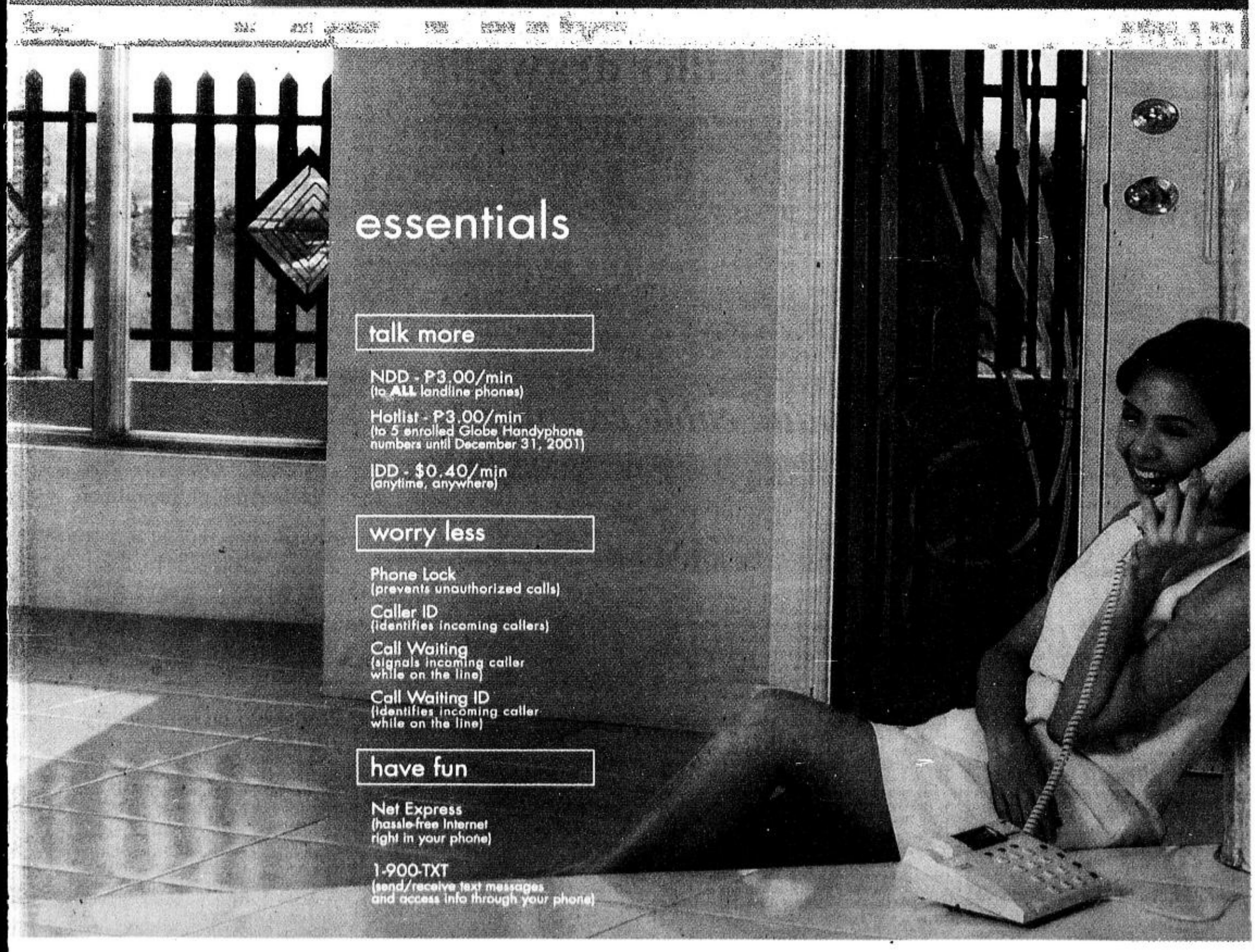

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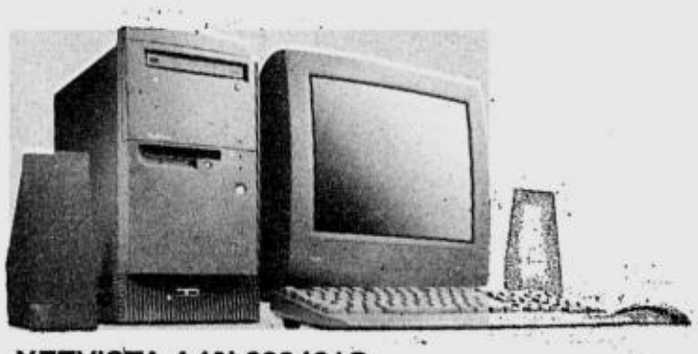

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Dengue spreads, kills 20 people, mostly kids

CEBU CITY—Dengue continues to grip the country in terror, killing 20 more people, most of them children, and causing illnesses to thousands more.

In this city and Negros Occidental alone, 16 children have died and about 1,400 persons fell ill since January because of dengue.

Records at the Cebu City Health Office (CCHO) showed that the disease killed 10 children and downed 1,122 from January to July 28.

In Negros Oriental, six children died while 307 persons fell ill of the disease as of July 27, according to the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) record.

Reports from the CCHO's epidemiology surveillance and statistics unit showed that the 10 fatalities, aged one to nine years old, were from Barangays Alaska, Tisa, Mabolo, Labangon, Calamba, Pardo, Basak-Pardo and Lorega-San Miguel in Cebu City.

Children victims

The latest fatality was a seven-year-old boy from Sitio Viking, Barangay Alaska, who died in a hospital on July 26.

A four-year-old girl from the same barangay also died of dengue on July 4, the CCHO record showed.

The CCHO record showed that 1,122 persons, aged three months to 53 years, afflicted of dengue were from the city's 30 barangays. There are 80 barangays in Cebu City.

The figure is four times higher than the number of dengue cases recorded over the same period last year.

The CCHO report said nine barangays were considered "hot spots" because the number of dengue cases in these areas had been increasing for the past weeks.

These are Barangays Guadalupe, Busay, Banilad, Camputhaw, Labangon, Lahug, Mabolo, Mambaling and Sambag 1.

Health officials also declared an outbreak of dengue cases in Barangay Sambag 2 where 33 persons fell ill of the disease in July.

'Hot spot'

Edgar Pangue, CCHO's assistant city epidemiologist, said an area is tagged a dengue "hot spot" if the number of dengue cases is "more than the expected range."

In Sambag 2 for instance, there were 25 cases of dengue recorded in the third week of July. But the number increased to 33 by the end of the month.

In Negros Oriental, the six fatalities, aged six to 10 years, were from the cities of Bayawan and Bais, and the towns of Mabinay and Siaton.

In his report to the IPHO, Joseph Tagle of the Vector-Borne Disease Control Program said 307 persons, mostly children, were afflicted with dengue from January to July 27.

He said those who fell ill of the disease were aged six months to 65 years. About 73 percent or 225 of these persons, were within the age range of one to 14 years.

Of the 20 towns in Negros Occidental, only Vallehermoso does not have a single case of dengue, Tagle said.

He said 82 dengue cases were recorded in Dumaguete City from January to July 27. In Bayawan, the number of dengue cases reached 46 over the same period. Bais City had 26 dengue cases.

Mabinay had 18 dengue cases and 14 in Dauin. Cases of dengue reached to 12 in Amlan town and 11 in Ayungon town. The remaining 98 cases were spread to the remaining 15 towns.

Education drive

Dr. Felimon Flores, provincial health officer, said a massive educational campaign is being conducted in the province to rid the possible breeding places of *Aedes egypti* mosquitoes.

Among the common breeding places are flower vases, roof gutters, old tires, coconut husks and empty cans and bottles.

Dengue has taken its toll in Pangasinan, too.

Four children were reported dead as a result of the disease in the province. At least 195 persons were brought to hospitals or clinics.

Dr. Alfredo Sy, acting provincial health officer, said the number of victims could be higher as they received reports only from government hospitals.

He identified the fatalities as Reneil Ladiana, Brazilda Quitlong, Jomer Tanop, and Keith Serviliales.

The youngest reported victim was a three-month-old girl from Urdaneta City and the oldest was a 51-year-old man from Bayambang town.

More cases

Sy said more cases were reported in western Pangasinan with Alaminos City, 19 cases; Bolinao and Infanta towns, 11 each; Bani town, 9; and Dasol 6.

Dagupan City and Bayambang town have 23 cases each.

The provincial health office is conducting fogging operations in the province.

Sy warned persons who have been afflicted with dengue strain 1 as they are most vulnerable if they are bitten by mosquitoes carrying dengue strains 2, 3 or 4.

"If a previous victim of one strain suffers from another strain, the symptoms will be severe. But if the victim suffers from the same strain, the symptoms will be mild because the victim will have developed immunity from the same strain, but only for three years," he said.

Sy said the four dengue strains are present in the country and any or all four may strike at the same time. This year, dengue strain 2 is making the rounds, he added.

Epidemic

In Zamboanga City, more persons, particularly children, are falling ill because of dengue and the situation could soon turn into an epidemic, a ranking health official said.

Rogelio Silapan, city health officer, said there is an immediate need to address the rapid spread of the disease as this could cause a serious problem in the next few days.

He said there are already over 500 persons afflicted with the mosquito-borne disease, six of whom died from January to July.

Silapan said they thought the incidence of dengue was already receding until local hospitals reported a week ago that there are over 50 new cases admitted.

"This is the first time it happened in the history of Zamboanga City that we have this much number of cases and the situation is far from over," he said.

The city council approved an urgent resolution requesting the Office of the City Mayor to purchase four additional fogging machines to help eradicate dengue-causing mosquitoes in the city. ***Jhunnex Napallacan and Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau; Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy	Hi 15° Lo 23°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Laoag	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/04/01

ROUNDUP

NPA leader nabbed

DAVAO CITY—An NPA leader was captured during an encounter with the military in Barangay San Antonio, Caraga, Davao Oriental Monday dawn. Maj. Romeo Ucag, commander of the Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao, identified the rebel as Edwin Tosoy alias Ka Dave of Front Guerrilla 15 of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee. Ucag said the 27th Special Forces Company was conducting operations in Barangay San Antonio when they chanced upon 18 rebels. Rene Bayugan, a civilian volunteer, was killed in the firefight. Recovered from the rebels was an M14 rifle and ammunition.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cadet ordered released

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A judge has ordered the Philippine Military Academy to release from its custody an Army marksman accused of shooting and wounding a policeman here. Judge Abraham Borreta ordered the PMA to release Army Sgt. Amadro Manalastas, who had posted bail for the shooting of PO1 Rogelio Bilibli during a July 12 encounter near a police precinct outside Camp John Hay. Manalastas, a member of the PMA parade band, returned to his official duty since Saturday, said Capt. Edgar Arevalo, PMA spokesperson.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

20 illegal fishers held

LEGAZPI CITY—Police arrested 20 fishermen suspected of using dynamites for fishing and five fishing boats in seawaters off Camarines Norte and Masbate provinces in July. Five fishermen were arrested while towing a net some three kilometers from the shoreline of Barangay Tamianon, Garchitorena, Camarines Norte. In Milagros town, Masbate, police caught 15 fishermen while trawl fishing. The boats being held by authorities were the MBs CA, Veverly, Boboylyn, FB Magnolia and an unmarked boat. The suspects were charged with violation of the fisheries code.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

1 slain in bus holdup

IROSIN, Sorsogon—A driver was killed when three unidentified men held up an air-conditioned bus in Barangay San Isidro, Bulan, Sorsogon around 4:40 a.m., Wednesday. Insp. Randy Gigantoca, Irosin police chief, said the victim was identified as Manuel Morillo, 41, married, and a resident of Barangay Sta. Misericordia, Sto. Domingo, Albay. He suffered a bullet wound in the right ear and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Irosin District Hospital. The suspects fled after the shooting, Gigantoca said. Bus driver Arnulfo Barnido, 30, said the bus came from Pasay.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Teacher, daughter stabbed

PILA, Laguna—A drunken man armed with several bladed weapons barged into the house of a Catholic schoolteacher here and stabbed and fatally wounded her and her daughter early Wednesday. SPO3 Nicanor Avendaño identified the victim as Nedeliza Ebarvia, 45, and daughter Mabel, 8, both of Barangay Bulilan del Norte. Police arrested the suspect, Mervin Dumay, 21, a neighbor, who is a native of Surigao del Sur. The victims were brought to and treated at the Laguna Provincial Hospital.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Radio station anniversary

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The development-oriented AM radio station of the University of the Philippines here celebrated its 37th anniversary yesterday with the theme "DZLB: *Patuloy na Paglilingkod Tungo sa Kaunlaran*" (Continuing Service Towards Progress), said Lester Ordan, dzLB officer in charge. A forum was held at the College of Development Communication Lecture Hall to ventilate problems and respond to questions and requests addressed to the government offices represented in the forum.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Trader's killer draws life

BAGUIO CITY—A local judge on Wednesday sentenced to life in prison a man who shot and killed his neighbor, a prominent businesswoman in the city in 1999, after the killer was disturbed by noise from the victim's compound here.

Judge Ruben Ayson of the regional trial court here found Gualberto de los Reyes guilty of killing businesswoman Monica Tan-Angheng and ordered him to pay her family more than P2.2 million in damages.

Court records showed that Angheng, owner of Isonn Marketing and Citylight Hotel, died from three bullet wounds. The killing took place about 5 p.m. on Aug. 14, 1999 inside Angheng's compound in Barangay Ferguson here.

De los Reyes, whose house is about four meters from Angheng's compound, shot Angheng once in the back and twice in the legs after she fell from the first shot.

Court records said De los Reyes used an unlicensed .45 cal. gun in shooting and killing Angheng.

Angheng's four employees witnessed the shooting. They took her to the Saint Louis University Hospital here but she died a day after.

"The mode of attack was deliberate and consciously adopted so that the victim cannot defend herself. She was totally defenseless," Ayson said in his decision.

The judge said De los Reyes was annoyed from the noise created by the employees of Isonn Marketing in Angheng's compound, provoking him to vent his ire on Angheng.

"The alley of about four meters separating the two buildings made it possible for De los Reyes to clearly hear all (the) noise coming from Angheng's business compound," Ayson said. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Banaue cable car planned

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The municipal government of Banaue, Ifugao, plans to offer foreign tourists a bird's eye view of the rice terraces in the next 10 years, using a proposed cable car system that would encircle the centuries-old engineering wonders.

The cable car system is part of a modernization plan that aims to accelerate tourism in Banaue, without affecting the age-old culture thriving in Ifugao, according to engineer Jhunie Wahayna, liaison officer of the Banaue municipal government.

The town's ancestral rice terraces have been included in the World Heritage list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

"The theft of valuable Ifugao artifacts and the dissolution of our heritage always concerned Ifugaos. But we also need to balance this against our reliance on the tourism industry, so we are offering tourists a new perspective of the rice terraces and it will not involve the ravaging of these artifacts," said Wahayna.

Banaue Mayor Tito Candelario sent the INQUIRER drafts of the town's proposed tourism upgrade, after noting a "downtrend" in tourism interest in the last few years.

"One of my major concerns in this municipality is to upgrade the rice terraces into one of the major tourism magnets of the Philippines. I am putting up a cable car system (that will elevate) the view of the most treasured World Heritage in our country," Candelario, in a July 12 letter to the INQUIRER, said.

The cable car system will service a proposed hotel zone where the town's official view area to the terraces is located.

A hydroelectric plant has also been proposed to harness the Alimit River, which runs through Banaue. The power facility will service both the town and the new tourism facilities 10 to 15 minutes from the town center.

Banaue tourists usually flock to the Banaue Hotel and Youth Hostel, run by the Philippine Tourism Authority, and smaller inns in the town center.

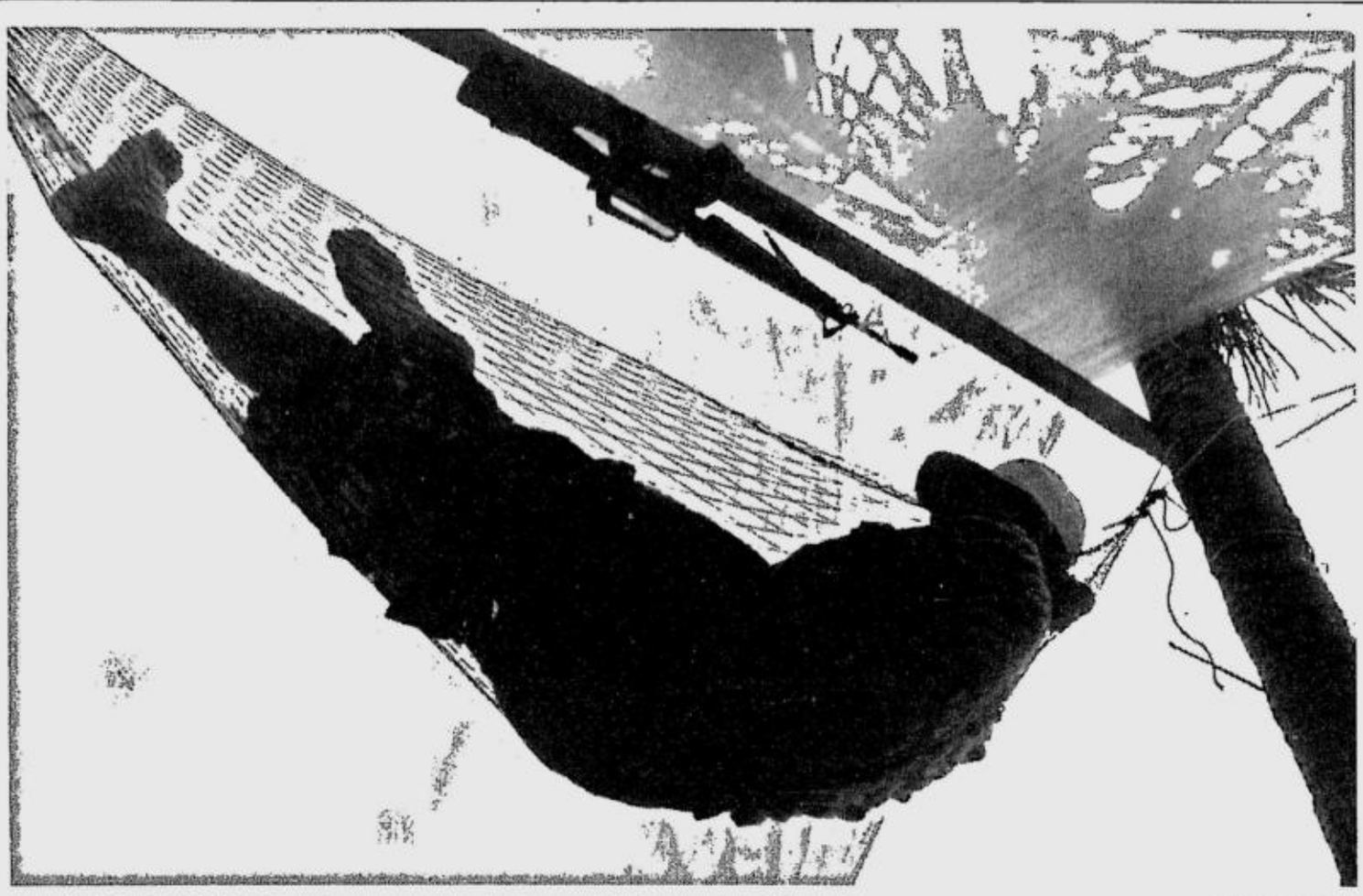
These facilities are only a ride away from the Barangay Viewpoint where tourists can have a magnificent view of the town's terraces.

"But because the roads are all winding and very thin, we feel that these facilities cannot hold a good number of tourists if we start drawing them. These roads are very vulnerable to traffic jams, if we get them. We get traffic jams already in town. So we are proposing a new tourism zone, so it will service visitors better," Wahayna said.

Candelario's projected expansion will also lead tourists to venture towards the towns of Hungduan and Mayoyao, which is 44 kilometers from Banaue, where older rice terraces abound.

But the original premise of the system involved an aerial view of the Banaue terraces.

"I am inviting foreign and local investors or the national government to help (finance) the project," Candelario said in his letter.



BIRTHDAY GIFT DENNIS SABANGAN

S/Sgt. Leonardo Tibudan gets a precious birthday gift July 15 in Basilan—a brief respite from fighting with the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

Berroya orders new crackdown on 'jueteng'

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police chief, on Thursday ordered a crackdown on jueteng allegedly being run by Health Undersecretary Epifanio Lacap in Masantol and San Simon towns for suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

He said he also ordered Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director, to verify the "raw information" on Lacap's reported takeover of the illegal numbers game from Otto Balboa, one of three suspected jueteng operators in the province's fourth district.

Lacap, an appointee of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has denied running the game for himself or for Pineda, saying he did not want to embarrass the President.

"In fact, I was the one who asked *Pareng* Bong (Pineda) to stop jueteng operations in deference to the President," he said.

He blamed Balboa for the "false reports" about his jueteng links.

According to Lacap, Balboa was retaliating because his wife, Masantol Mayor Corazon Lacap, has succeeded in stamping out jueteng in the town.

Reports received by the INQUIRER said Lacap has been running the racket since June allegedly with the blessings of Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

Berroya said he found this claim "very, very unlikely" because Lina had taken a strong anti-jueteng stance and early this week warned policemen they would be fired or charged if they could not stop jueteng in their areas.

Lacap, according to sources in Masantol, operate the game through one Baby Dalisay.

In Masantol, reports said Lacap maintains 100 *cabos* or area managers. All draws, held in Barangay Puti until last week, have been transferred to Sitio Baco in Barangay Alauli, near the town proper.

Reports also said each *cabo* turns in an average of P1,000 in bets per draw or a total of P300,000 in bets daily.

The names of Lacap or Pineda did not appear in Camp Olivas' current list of jueteng operators or financiers in Central Luzon.

Balboa, Paris Tolentino, Melchor Caluag, Marga and a certain Boy T. were the names that appeared in a list that Berroya furnished to Lina on July 29.

"The involvement of Bong Pineda in (the) operations could hardly be established to date," Berroya said, replying to an allegation by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that Pineda, linked several times to Ms Macapagal, has remained "untouchable."

Berroya, as police commander of the Philippine Constabulary in Pampanga from 1985 to 1987, was accused of entrenching Pineda in the illegal racket.

When he assumed the leadership of the Central Luzon police command last month, Berroya said jueteng in the region has been "relegated to guerrilla type of operations."

"His name (Pineda's) has not surfaced. He might be using fronts," he told the INQUIRER but without naming Lacap or other operators.

Alleged payoffs from jueteng brought down the administration of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Former Estrada pal and ex-Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claimed that Estrada received millions of pesos in payoffs from jueteng every month.

Singson's allegations led to an impeachment trial that was cut short by the ouster of Estrada. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Body of US soldier's Filipino wife found

BY TONETTE OREJAS AND CARMELA REYES
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—National Bureau of Investigation agents exhumed on Wednesday the body of an American serviceman's Filipino wife who had been missing since Saturday here.

The agents dug a fresh mound of sand near the lahar-choked Abacan River in Barangay Anunas here and found the body of Marilyn Wright, 49, packed in a black plastic trash bag.

A resident in Barangay Anunas tipped off the police of Wright's murder on July 28.

Wright arrived from the United States in 1999 and lived at the nearby Timok Park on the allowance that her husband sent her monthly, said the victim's sister, Paulita Codilla.

Also on Wednesday, NBI agents arrested Eddie Manalo of Anunas who, they said, admitted robbing and killing Wright.

Manalo told investigators that he took Wright's jewelry, cash and cellular phone.

The agents said Manalo also admitted killing an Indian and burying him in Barangay Sta. Cruz in Porac, also a lahar-laden area in Pampanga.

The agents were looking into the links of Manalo to organized crime syndicates that have used Mt. Pinatubo's lahar fields as a dumping ground of kidnap and robbery victims.

In Bulacan, police are looking for a businessman for his alleged involvement in the killing of his business partner.

Mylene Hao, 39, of Barangay Guinhawa in Malolos town, was found dead on MacArthur Highway near the Apalit-Calumpit boundary on Wednesday.

Insp. Richard Ivan Viray, senior medico-legal officer of the Bulacan police, said Hao was strangled and stabbed seven times.

Recovered near Hao's body were her money and jewelry.

Her husband, Ramon Hao, a fire officer at the Bulacan provincial capitol, accused Garvin Garcin, a money lender, of killing his wife.

Hao's relatives said they last saw her aboard Garcin's car that sped toward MacArthur Highway.

Her relatives also told police that before Hao died, she advised them of the threats she was receiving allegedly from Garcin.

Police theorized that Hao was killed due to a bungled business deal. ***Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

SETBACK FOR REBS

Army seizes Samar NPA camp

BY VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Army soldiers overran the "main camp" of the New People's Army in Northern Samar on July 27, according to military reports here.

Col. Rafael Romero, commanding officer of the 803rd Brigade based in the capital Catarman town, said the discovery of the camp was a big blow to the rebels because the soldiers were able to penetrate the guerrillas' defenses.

He said the NPA camp has 20 huts and is located in a forested area of Bobon. The place, he added, was "big enough to accommodate 200 to 300 people."

The members of the Army's 63rd Infantry Battalion chanced upon the camp while on patrol in the hinterland village of Hinaraganan in Bobon town.

A 30-minute gun battle ensued between the soldiers and the rebels, but the guerrillas later withdrew to a thickly forested area, military reports said.

No casualty was reported in the firefight. The main camp was reportedly under the command of a Commander Normy Castillo.

The soldiers were able to recover from the NPA camp a new Sony TV set, a Phillips VCD player with disc, a Honda generator, a Motorola cellular phone, an Icom radio unit with accessories, an airgun, an NPA flag and communist documents.

They were also able to seize medical and dental equipment and office supplies, food and kitchen utensils.

Northern Samar is one of the areas in Eastern Visayas where the NPA rebels are actively operating.

Last July 30, another group of soldiers also belonging to the 63rd IB engaged in a 10-minute firefight with the NPA rebels during an encounter in Barangay Mabini, Lope de Vega, Northern Samar.

There was no report of any casualty from both sides.

Subic execs probe death of whale

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A top official of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium ruled out "environmental factor" in the death of a false killer whale featured in the Ocean Adventure marine park here.

"Water at the Ilanin Bay, which is where Ocean Adventure operates, is good and it is teeming with fish," SBME chief executive officer Timothy Desmond told the INQUIRER.

He assured, however, that they are doing their best to track down the cause of the animal's death.

Deuce (the whale's name), one of the five false killer whales featured in the Ocean Adventure's whale encounter program, died on Monday.

The SBME said the whale's condition was closely monitored, tests were conducted and the appropriate treatment was administered since it showed signs of weakness on July 26.

Desmond said the SBME has sent tissue samples to the University of the Philippines at Los Baños in Laguna.

"While we cannot issue any definitive statement until the results are in, initial tests conducted by our animal care experts show that Deuce suffered from viral infection," he added.

The Ocean Adventure marine park is located at the Camayan Point, which is within the naval magazine (NavMag) area of the former US naval base.

Documents from the US Defense Department had identified the explosive ordinance (EOD) area in the NavMag as a contaminated site and at least two other areas there as potentially contaminated.

The EOD area was also listed as one of the toxic "hot spots" in the 1996 Woodward Clyde environmental baseline study commissioned by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

"The EOD is outside the NavMag Watershed and is at least half a mile away from the marine park," Desmond said.

He said it is impossible for contaminants to migrate to their location since that would mean an "uphill, downhill, uphill, downhill" pattern.

Reacting to reports that animal welfare and environmental groups would stage a protest to reiterate their demand for the closure of the marine park, Desmond said, "It's their right."

He said SBME will "continue with our legal offensive against the conduct" of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, referring to the case they filed against the DENR following its issuance of a cease and desist order last March.

The SBME succeeded in obtaining from the Bataan regional trial court a writ of preliminary injunction that prevented the DENR from enforcing its order.

The DENR was reported to have elevated the case to the Court of Appeals. ***Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

MNLF, MILF near deal

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are getting near to an agreement that would unite them in finding a common stand to address the "Mindanao problem," according to the spokesperson of the MNLF.

"We want to show to the Muslim world that we here in Mindanao are united in seeking a solution to (the problem) for a lasting peace in this land," said MNLF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

However, he said the alliance is not tactical but is aimed at strengthening peace in Mindanao.

The MILF central committee, led by Salamat Hashim, is forming the accord with the 15-men council of the MNLF, which sacked Nur Misuari as chairman.

"The unity talks formulated by Libya, Indonesia and Malaysia does not include Misuari, since the MILF does not recognize him anymore," Kabalu said. ***Jonathan Ma, Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

SECOND MONTHLY DRAW
(JULY 27, 2001)
LIST OF WINNERS

First Prize
₱100,000
FERNANDO I. BALA
District III, NIA-UPRIIS, Cabanatuan City

First Prize
₱100,000
AGNES A. CANOY
Buena Hills, Guadalupe, Cebu City

First Prize
₱100,000
GLADYS GRACE C. ENCARGUES
Blk. 4 Lot 10, Queensland Village, Damong Maliit, Novaliches, Quezon City

Second Prize
₱50,000
ROSITA CUBINAR
Palmera Homes 4B, Block 13, Lot 15, SJDM, Bulacan

Second Prize
₱50,000
ROSITA SEGOVIA
R. Ocampo Drive – White Road, Inayawan, Cebu City

Second Prize
₱50,000
HERMINIGILDA M. NAVORA
33 Santiago St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City

Third Prize
₱25,000
JOSE A. GALLARDO, JR.
Training Dorm, CLSU Muñoz, Science City, Nueva Ecija

Third Prize
₱25,000
FLORA OIDA
San Miguel, Nabua, Camarines Sur

Third Prize
₱25,000
REBECCA G. PALLES
29 P. N. R. North Bangkal, Makati City

Sali na at baka ikaw ang isa sa tatlong magiging milyonaryo!
Abangan ang third monthly draw sa August 31, 2001.

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Balangiga history not clear as a bell

BY ROLANDO BORRINAGA
Balangiga, Eastern Samar

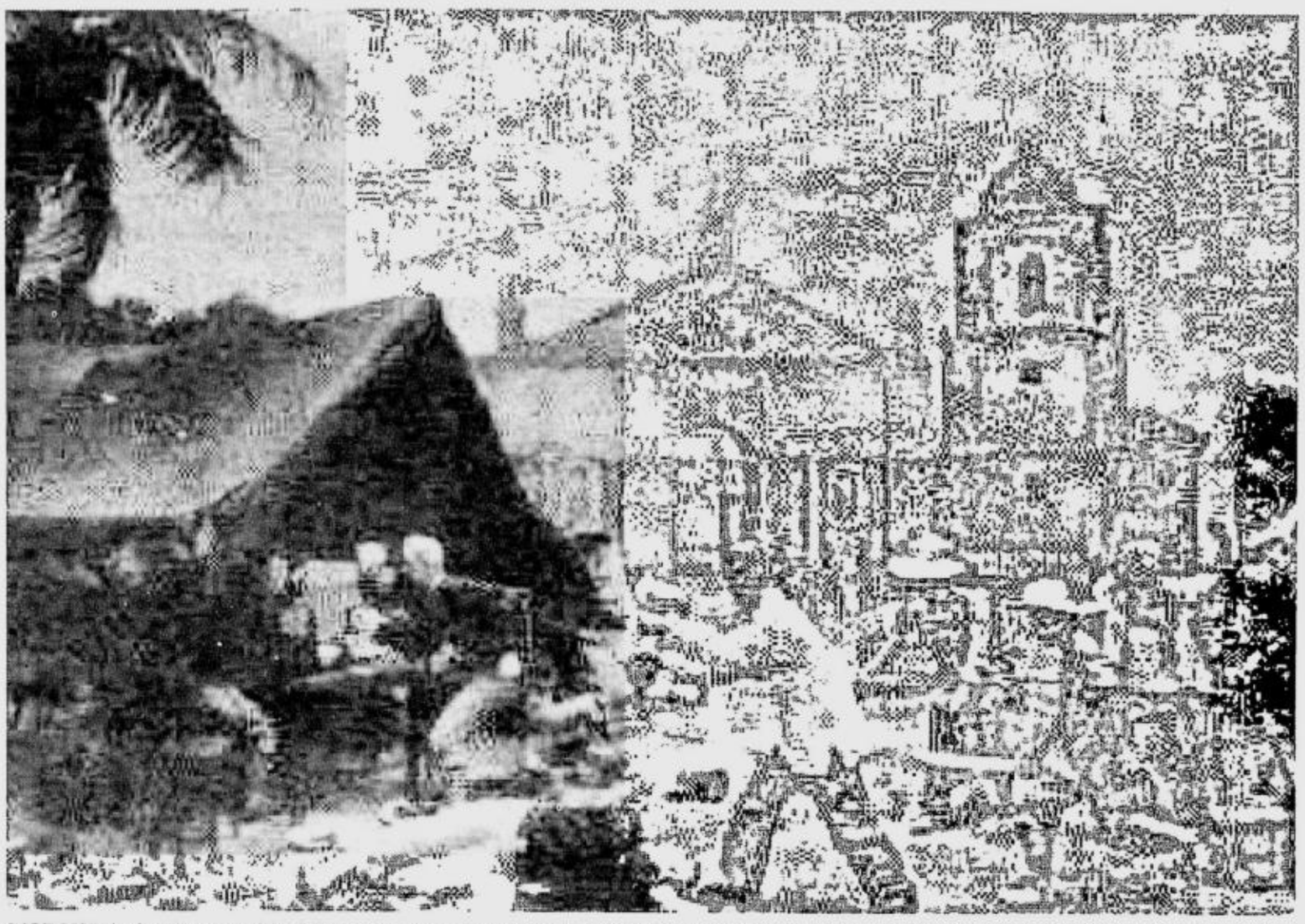
WHEN the people of Balangiga, Eastern Samar, celebrate the centennial of the Balangiga Massacre on Sept. 28, they will understand better the circumstances behind the bloody incident and its bloodier aftermath, and a different story about bells.

They will also see a breakthrough in establishing the identity and location of three bells that hung at the church belfry during the Filipino attack on the American garrison in Balangiga.

Since 1998, members of a small group have been comparing notes and ideas by e-mail based on their own sources and documents about Balangiga. They have also debated on myths and hypotheses in evolving a body of knowledge that has reconciled most conflicting versions and interpretations of what actually happened in Balangiga a century ago.

The group is composed of Jean Wall, daughter of the first American soldier to be attacked in Balangiga; Bob Couttie, a Subic-based movie writer and former British Broadcasting Corp. correspondent who managed the Balangiga website; and this writer, an associate professor of the University of the Philippines.

The three first met at the "UP National Symposium on the Balangiga Attack of 1901," which this writer convened in Tacloban City on Sept. 26, 1998.



DIORAMA depicts the start of the fighting in Balangiga on Sept. 28, 1901. This photograph was scanned from an article about Balangiga in the Sept. 26, 1993 issue of the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine.

The Balangiga story

The Filipino in the group has this updated version of the famous Balangiga incident:

In the morning of Saturday (not the mythic Sunday), Sept. 28, 1901, hundreds of native fighters armed with bolos, some of them disguised as churchgoing women, staged a successful surprise attack on US troops while most of them were eating breakfast in Balangiga at the southern coast of Samar Island.

Described as the "worst single defeat" of the US military in the Philippines, that event became known in history as the Balangiga Massacre.

The natives fought to resist the destruction or confiscation and rationing of their food stocks and to free about 80 male residents who had been rounded up for forced labor and detained for days in crowded conditions with little food and water.

The US troops belonged to Company C, 9th US Infantry Regiment, who were stationed in Balangiga to keep its small port closed and prevent any trading. Their mission was to deprive the Filipino revolutionary forces of supplies during the Philippine-American War, which had spread to the Visayas.

An elite unit, Company C performed as honor guard during the historic July 4, 1901 inauguration of the American civil government in the Philippines and the installation as first civil governor of William Howard Taft, later president of the US.

They arrived in Balangiga a few weeks later, on Aug. 11.

The attacking force, coordinated by Valeriano Abanador, the local chief of police, was composed of around 500 men in seven different companies. They represented virtually all families of Balangiga, whose outlying villages then included the present towns of Lawaan and Giporlos, and of Quinapundan, a town served by the priest in Balangiga.

Some of the leaders, notably Capt. Eugenio Daza, were revolutionary officers under the command of Brig. Gen. Vicente Lukban, the politico-military governor of Samar who was appointed by President Emilio Aguinaldo.

The ringing of the church bell signaled the attack. Fierce fighting ensued, resulting in one of the biggest number of American casualties in a single encounter.

Of the 74 men of Company C, 36 were killed during the attack, eight of the wounded died later during the escape by bancas to Basey town, and four were missing and presumed dead.

Of the 26 survivors, only four were not wounded.

The natives suffered 28 fatalities and 22 wounded.

The bell was taken from the church belfry a day after the attack by US reinforcement troops from Basey and was brought by the survivors to the US as war booty.

'Howling wilderness'

Considered one of the worst defeats in US military history, the Filipino victory in Balangiga was followed by a shameful episode that was replicated in sensational but smaller scales by American soldiers in No Gun Ri, Korea, in 1950 and in My Lai, Vietnam in 1968.

US military authorities retaliated with a "kill and burn" policy to take back Samar, deliberately equating a victorious small town with an entire island, from October 1901 to March 1902.

Implemented by Brig. Gen. Jacob Smith of the US Army, the campaign resulted in the undocumented disappearance of some 50,000 people, the smallest increase in Samar's population between 1896 and 1903.

Numerous men, women and children 10 years old and above were reported killed during the combat operations to reduce Samar into a "howling wilderness."

General Smith was eventually made the scapegoat for the shameful policy. He was retired from the US Army following a court martial.

Today, the Balangiga incident remains a largely forgotten episode of a forgotten war. Even the national government has not shown keen interest in commemorating the centennial of this truly proud moment in the Philippines' bloody route to freedom.

As of this writing, no national or regional government office has actively prepared for the September affair.

The Balangiga incident is popularly associated with the two "Bells of Balangiga" displayed at the Trophy Park of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The first Filipino known to have located these relics in 1957 was the late Jesuit historian Fr. Horacio de la Costa.

The municipal government of Balangiga formally sought the return of the bells in a resolution passed in 1989, the same year they started commemorating the annual "Balangiga Encounter Day."

In November 1994, US President Bill Clinton offered to return the two bells in Wyoming to the Philippines "in the spirit of fair play." However, this offer was deemed "illegal" in US military circles and was not heeded.

The bells were the subject of a spate of international publicity in 1998, when President Fidel Ramos actively sought their return in time for the centennial of the Philippine Independence. The presidential intervention failed because Republican Sen. Craig Thomas of Wyoming filed a bill in the US Senate that effectively stalled any hope for the immediate return of the relics to the country.

Third bell

While the bells issue was heating up in December 1997, it took a totally different twist after a US military historian disclosed to the Associated Press the presence of a "third bell" of Balangiga with the US forces assigned in Korea.

The cited source was David Perrine, a West Point graduate and retired military officer.

Maj. Daniel Tarter, former commander of Company C, later affirmed Perrine's revelation. In commenting on an Asiaweek article on the Bells of Balangiga, Tarter expressed doubts about the authenticity of the Wyoming bells and agreed to have the real bell returned to Balangiga.

Tarter said the bell of Balangiga was with the 9th US Infantry Regiment stationed at Camp Hovey near Tongduchon, South Korea. He last saw it in April 1997.

A son of a Manchu, as the 9th Infantry soldier was called after the unit helped quell the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900, revealed in an Internet posting that the bell of Balangiga entered the US through the Madison Barracks at Sackets Harbor in New York. The facility was the Manchus' home station from Oct. 9, 1891 to April 23, 1905.

In contrast, the Wyoming bells were brought by members of the 11th US Infantry Regiment from Tacloban, Leyte to their home station in the former Fort D.A. Russell (now F.E. Warren Air Force Base).

The new information about the "third bell" prompted a review of the documentary sources.

In a 1935 affidavit, Eugenio Daza mentioned that "one of the bells" rang to signal the attack on the American garrison in Balangiga was taken to the US.

Pedro Duran Sr., another Balangiga plotter, also recalled only one bell ringing in a 1957 interview with a priest-historian.

On the American side, only one bell with a differently worded plaque was originally displayed in Wyoming. This was the circa-1889 bell with the Franciscan emblem.

Private Gamlin

The account of Pvt. Adolph Gamlin, the first American soldier to be attacked and wounded in Balangiga, also mentioned that only one bell was rung to signal the attack.

A photograph of some Balangiga survivors with the church bell in their possession still exists. Gamlin said this was taken in Manila. Their bell is a smaller version of the Wyoming bell with the Franciscan emblem.

Sources from both sides of the Balangiga conflict now tend to acknowledge the key role of Gamlin in repulsing the attack and averting a rout of his company. Despite severe injuries in the head, belly and back, Gamlin appeared to be the first soldier to grab a rifle and start firing at the horde of native attackers, who were thus forced to retreat.

Jean Wall, Gamlin's daughter, who visited Balangiga in 1998, is now lobbying for official recognition of the heroism of her father and his fellow survivors, who salvaged what was left of America's honor in Balangiga. She favors the return of the signal bell of Balangiga to the Philippines.

Comedy of errors

Unknown to most Filipinos, the "third bell" was nearly returned to the country in 1998.

Senator Thomas initially offered to help return the relic if the Philippine government would lay its hands off the two bells in Wyoming.

However, President Ramos scoffed at the senator's proposal and insisted on his "one original, one replica" sharing formula. That proved to be a costly mistake.

To protect his political flank, Thomas filed Senate Bill No. 1903, titled "A Veterans Memorial Physical Integrity Act of 1998," in the US Congress weeks before Ramos' trip to the US in May 1998 trip to retrieve the bells. The bill prohibits the return of veterans' memorial objects without specific authorization in law.

Thus, the Filipinos' hope of ringing the "Bells of Balangiga" to launch the Philippine Independence Centennial festivities on June 12, 1998 was doused.

The "third bell" also became elusive thereafter. Efforts by independent parties to verify its existence and location were fruitless.

Another bell

The latest breakthrough was the identification of yet another bell with similar but differently placed details compared with the Wyoming bell and the small bell photographed with the survivors. All three have the Franciscan emblem and might have belonged to the same set of three bells.

The erstwhile unknown bell, which looks medium-sized, is mounted on a concrete pedestal in an open field in the old Madison Barracks in New York. On one side of the pedestal is carved "Balangiga."

This writer was sent a scanned copy of the bell's photograph but was not allowed to release it for publication.

Thus, the three bells of Balangiga at the time of the 1901 attack have now been traced, including their points of entry to the US. But the mystery of only one bell ringing during the attack itself still persists.

In many rural Philippine towns, the smallest of three church bells was routinely allowed by parish priests to be used to call people to public meetings or civic and non-religious activities, such as communal street cleaning, or to alert them in cases of emergency, like fire or flood.

A repeated ringing of the small bell signified a non-religious activity.

The soldiers of Company C were probably familiar with the ringing of Balangiga's small bell. This might have been used to coordinate the task of cleaning the town's streets and surroundings by the detained male residents on orders of the American commander.

But when the same bell rang that fateful morning of Sept. 28, 1901, it was already intended to rid the town of the Americans. The rest remains contested history.

Tommy O was right but sadly alone

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

FROM the dark prognosis and outrage that greeted the Supreme Court's decision to transfer to Cebu City the venue of the trial of 44 suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits, Mayor Tomas Osmeña's initial reaction stood out.

"I'm ready to take the challenge and responsibility," the mayor declared.

Tommy talked about the "social responsibility" of hosting the trial even as business leaders and politicians loudly warned of damage, mostly imagined, to their parochial interests.

That social responsibility must stem from Cebu City's stature as a Queen City, presumably strong, stable and progressive enough to deal with bigger risks.

If Cebu City can't handle the task assigned by the high tribunal, what chance do "weaker" local governments have?

But less than half a day after he had made known his stand, Mayor Osmeña conceded to the reality of politics. He cited "overwhelming objections" to the Abu Sayyaf trial by almost all sectors in Cebu, including his own allies.

He was right, but sadly alone.

The ranks of the most vocal critics of the Supreme Court order were a curious mix of hitherto warring politicians, like Sen. John Osmeña and Gov. Pablo Garcia; and such diverse groups like the Church and Bayan militants.

They would ignore a much bigger concern, national security, in the hope of keeping Cebu a vibrant island paradise.

What they don't realize is that Cebu isn't spared from the Abu Sayyaf threat. If the bandits can hit foreign resorts, they will likely find resorts in Mactan easy targets.

Will Cebuanos wait for an Abu landing in Cebu before doing its share to stop this notorious bandit group?

I don't think the Cebu leaders can shirk from their moral obligation to ensure that the suspects are fairly tried, and the guilty ones put behind bars where they can't hurt the community. They owe it to country.

* * *

FIRST FILER. Senator Osmeña beat everyone to the draw by filing the first case seeking a reconsideration of the Supreme Court decision.

"The planned transfer of the trial proceedings involving the Abu Sayyaf group will further unnerve the Cebuanos and adversely affect business conditions, especially the tourism industry," the senator said in his petition.

This is so touching. Not too long ago, this same man threatened to make Cebuanos pay (actually, fast) for not making him No. 1 in his home province during the 1998 Senate elections.

Apparently, time—not to mention the 2004 elections when Osmeña will again court voters—has healed the hurt. Has the good senator rediscovered his concern for his fellow Cebuanos?

In his petition, Osmeña copied the arguments used by Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat to convince the SC to move the trials out of her city.

How could the justices not possibly consider those arguments now?

For one, Cebu is far removed from known Abu Sayyaf lairs in Mindanao; a decision to "invade" Cebu won't be easy to make for bandits who are supposed to be running for their lives.

Cebu is also home to the Visayas Command, and has enough police forces to ensure security in the duration of the trial.

* * *

KIDNAP. To point out Cebu's own peace and order problem, Senator Osmeña cited the recent kidnapping of Ryan James Yu, who was abducted in Lahug, Cebu City while on his way to school last July 23.

Ryan James, 11, was found two days later in an abandoned safe house, reportedly after ransom was paid.

Policemen were quick to grab credit for rescuing the boy, even it became clear later they played no part in bringing the victim home safely.

Finding himself alone, Ryan James said he managed to untie himself, get out of the safe house and call his family.

The lawmen arrested five suspects—in faraway Davao—who allegedly admitted to the kidnapping.

But one of them, Robert Galope, would later reveal how his captors used a variety of torture techniques, including the use of electricity and water, to force a confession from them.

Abu strikes again; 30 seized, 4 killed

(From page A1)

Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27.

At 8 a.m. yesterday, four of those taken were found dead at the Cocoland Plantation in Look town. Three—Eutiquiano Cristobal, 78; Ronald Rojas, 14; and Elmer Kanalaray—had been beheaded. The fourth, Totoy Ramirez, had his throat cut.

Three others managed to escape. They were identified as Antonio de los Santos, now being treated at the Lamitan Emergency Hospital; a certain Rebollos; and the father of the slain Elmer Nakalaray.

A number of residents complained about the military's delayed response to the kidnappings.

"The incident was reported when it started at 7 p.m. There were continuous atrocities from then on, but we never saw military men responding. I just saw them this morning taking over the pursuit operation from the policemen," said a Look teacher who asked not to be named.

Insp. Elias Hampac, chief of the 908th Provincial Mobile Group, said the abductors and their hostages were last seen moving toward Kapatagan in Isabela City.

He said most of the abductors appeared to be teenagers.

He quoted one of those who managed to escape as saying that they were kidnapped by a group reinforced by Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang alias Commander Robot.

Three hours after the abductions, the bandits torched the Look Elementary School.

SP02 Reynaldo Santos said a number of armed men were seen throwing gasoline at the three school buildings.

Teacher Nimfa Entero said the classrooms were gutted. "And of course, the students are all afraid. The school will probably be closed for the meantime," she said.

Delayed response

Hampac admitted that the military prevented policemen from pursuing the bandits.

"Our role is only to secure Lamitan town. We just provide internal security here and conduct patrols," he said.

Around noon yesterday at the 102nd Army Brigade headquarters at Campo Uno, Maj. Ryner More said nothing was definite as yet.

"We are not yet sure what situation we are confronting right now," said More, an aide of Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling.

He said the military was depending on the accounts of a reporter of a Zamboanga City television network for updates.

"I haven't had any sleep since last night because I had to communicate with this girl," he said.

More stopped reporters from interviewing Camiling or Gen. Jose Calimlim, the Armed Forces' acting chief of staff. "We still do not know what to say to the media," he said.

Later at a news conference in Zamboanga City, Calimlim said military forces were in hot pursuit of the bandits who were reported heading toward the Sampinit Complex, a known lair of the Abu Sayyaf.

Calimlim also said the number of troops deployed in the area was insufficient to prevent the bandits from staging diversionary attacks.

"No matter how many battalions are deployed, we cannot cordon off the whole place. The terrain is so vast, too densely forested, mountainous, and the vegetation is so thick," he said. "Besides, the way the Abu Sayyaf is operating now is to its advantage."

The military has deployed at least eight Army and Marine battalions since the crackdown on the Abu Sayyaf was launched a month ago.

Calimlim described the Thursday abductions and killings as "a barbaric act."

"This is more propaganda or media mileage on the Abu Sayyaf's part," he said.

Hostages

Glenda Esteban's husband Sonido and their children Janel and Arlo were also among those abducted.

The others were Alexander, Bobong, Liza, JR, Avelino, Rene, Susan, Dodo, and Christian—all surnamed Ramirez; Jun Alito and his four still unidentified children; Allan Asail; Lando and Henry Revillas; and Gina May Santos.

In Look, women and children wailed on hearing news of the killing of four of the hostages.

A number of residents started packing their belongings, fearful that the bandits would return.

"It's very difficult to forget what they did to my father," said Jun Cristobal, son of Eutiquiano Cristobal. "He was a very old man, yet they still beheaded him."

Jun Cristobal is a security escort of Mayor Inocente Ramos.

Laughing stock

Senators chided the military and police for failing to stop the Abu Sayyaf from carrying out more terrorist activities.

In a statement, Sen. Blas Ople said the AFP was fast becoming the laughing stock in Europe.

Ople, who is in Geneva attending a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said he had been peppered with questions by his European counterparts about the failure of the AFP to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf.

"It seems that our credibility with other armed forces of the world right now is zero," he said, adding that parliamentarians abroad could not figure how 10,000 troops could not prevail over the terrorists.

"If we have already reached the limit of our military capability, the secretary of defense, the AFP chief of staff and the chiefs of all the armed services should resign to admit responsibility," he said.

Sen. Robert Barbers also expressed surprise at how the Thursday killings could have happened with the military in full force and in a state of alert in Basilan.

"What happened to intelligence work?" Barbers told the INQUIRER, adding that he would seek an investigation of the matter.

Senate President Franklin Drilon took a diplomatic tack. But he said: "I'm willing to support whatever action the President will take in order to once and for all crush this evil in our midst."

Referring to his colleagues who had assailed the AFP, Drilon said this was not the time "to act like table generals."

"I'll support the military. Let's ask the questions after we solve the problems. I believe that at this point, we should support an all-out use of force because (the Abu Sayyaf has) embarrassed us enough," he said.

In Cyberjaya, Malaysia, Libyan Ambassador to Manila Salem Adam condemned the activities of the Abu Sayyaf.

"We have no solution but to crush them," Salem told Agence France Presse. "The Abu Sayyaf is a bandit group. They are doing nothing but kidnapping and asking for ransom and murder. They are using Islam as an umbrella. We are not going to talk to them."

In August last year, the Gadhafi Charity Organization, run by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son Seif, financed the release of western hostages earlier seized by the Abu Sayyaf from Sipadan, Malaysia, and taken to Jolo. *With reports from Jonathan F. Ma and Alexander M. Young, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Martin P. Marfil and Armand N. Nocum in Manila; AFP*

RP's top Boy Scout is a girl

(From page A1)

this afternoon as Chief Scout of the BSP in an investiture ceremony at Malacañang.

As provided in Republic Act 7278, the law that created the BSP, the incumbent Philippine president shall be the Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts.

Macapagal will be the 12th Chief Scout and the fifth president to assume the post. Her father, the former President Diosdado Macapagal, was an honorary BSP president.

"The BSP, especially its young members, looks forward to being involved in the President's efforts at nation building, with the hope that her administration will continue the traditional support given by the country's Chief Executive to the movement," BSP national president Jejomar Binay said in a statement.

The INQUIRER reported yesterday that the BSP has opened its door to girls and that the BSP and the Girl Scouts of the Philippines are now competing for membership.

But according to BSP secretary general Carlos Escudero, the BSP was not competing with the GSP.

"It's not true," Escudero said when asked by the INQUIRER yesterday about the organization's plan to accept girls.

"We have no plans of opening up our programs for girls. We are not ready for it. We don't have a program for girls," he said.

What the BSP has are women "*kawan*" (group) leaders, or school teachers who take charge of the BSP's programs for kid scouts (for boys aged 5 to 6 1/2 years) and cub scouts (for boys aged 7 to 10 years).

Boys aged 10 to 17 1/2 years are placed in the Boy Scout program.

Escudero said there are also a few girls, 18 years and above, in the BSP's coed Rover Scouting program that renders community service.

"We don't accept girls in our troops," Escudero stressed.

Asked about Roco's statement about the BSP supposedly accepting girls, Escudero said the misconception could have arisen when the BSP paid a courtesy call on Roco in June to discuss school contributions. The BSP had clarified to Roco that it was not soliciting contributions from students but collecting membership fees from Boy Scouts.

Membership in the Boy Scouts is voluntary.

Escudero said Roco asked the group if it was accepting girls and the BSP officials present answered yes. It was not clear if the officials explained that the Boy Scouts "*na babae*" (who are girls) were the *kawan* leaders and those in the Rover Scouting program.

The BSP has a nationwide membership of 3 million. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*

Reforms will continue . . .

(From page A1)

consumers real benefits from power deregulation, and to guarantee them employment once the state power firm is privatized, according to Jimmy Salman, Cordillera president of the Napocor Employees and Workers Union.

In her press conference, Ms Macapagal stressed that "the changes were made mainly in the interests of the SSS" in delivering services to its clients.

"And what we did is really in the interest of preserving the institution and the effective management of the institution," the President added.

Nañagas himself offered to step down as "the solution" to the crippling strike, the President revealed. "The suggested solution, you could say that came from Nañagas himself," Ms Macapagal said.

Defenders of the ousted SSS chief say the strikers, who were backed by leftist labor groups, feared he would unearth hidden anomalies in the SSS and privatize some of its functions in an effort to make it more efficient.

The President said Nañagas, who has been transferred to the Development Bank of the Philippines, opted to step down "because there are other very challenging and fulfilling options for himself in the financial sector."

'Hypocrite!'

The President stressed that De la Paz was "not any less tough" than her predecessor.

Analysts have warned, however, that the replacement of Nañagas may be a sign of wavering commitment to reform, and have raised the prospect that other special-interest groups would mount protests to block reforms or the appointment of officials they did not like.

Militant labor groups reacted vehemently to criticism from Sen. John Osmeña and the Makati Business Club that Malacañang yielded to mob rule when it removed Nañagas, and warned De la Paz not to follow in the reformer's footsteps if she does not want to suffer the same fate.

"Senator Osmeña does not know what he's saying. He foolishly thinks that when people organize themselves, assert their demands and speak up their rights, it's mob rule," said Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) spokesperson Sammy Malunes.

"He's just bitter about his personal experience when he himself became target of people's indignation during the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada," Malunes added.

"Hypocrite! During the May 1 siege on the Palace, nary a peep was heard from Osmeña against the mob rule egged on by the pro-Estrada faction. But now he shrieks at a legitimate exercise of the constitutional right to peaceably assemble for redress of grievances," said Renato Magtubo, Partido ng Manggagawa national chair.

Magtubo also assailed Makati Business Club head Guillermo Luz for saying that the government sent "a dangerous signal" by giving in to the demands of the SSS employees.

"Luz is equally sanctimonious. He sees this action as a mob rule but turns a blind eye to the mob that was duped by Gloria in her grab for power," he said.

Threat

Crispin Beltran, KMU chair, advised De la Paz to heed the lesson that Nañagas learned "the hard way."

"The employees of the SSS are up in arms against the very idea of privatization, and they're on their guard against graft. For her own sake, we urge Ms De la Paz not to entertain either of the two," Beltran threatened, adding that De la Paz should refrain from making any move to sanction the employees.

"What workers want for Ms De la Paz to do is to institute reforms in the SSS that would genuinely focus on improving its services to its members and beneficiaries; do away with the extensive graft and corruption in SSS and safeguard the workers' pension fund," Malunes said.

"It is her duty to do these but not through privatization or outsourcing. If she cannot fulfill these then she can expect waves of protests once she starts working on the government's plan to privatize the SSS," he added. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AFP*

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4. Application is free. Forms are available at all Cebu Pacific ticketing and check-in counters nationwide. Filled up forms may be faxed to (02) 637-9165, or submitted to your nearest Cebu Pacific outlet.

5. Members may check their accumulated PremiuMiles by calling the Summit Club Member Service Center at 1-800-1888-2582.

6. PremiuMiles will be credited within 24 hrs. of flight date.

7. PremiuMiles will be credited only to full-revenue travels.

8. For more information, please contact Summit Club's toll-free line at 1-800-1888-2582.

SECTOR IN EITHER DIRECTION	SINGLE CREDIT PREMIUMILES	PROMO PREMIUMILES	SECTOR IN EITHER DIRECTION	SINGLE CREDIT PREMIUMILES	PROMO PREMIUMILES
Manila – Davao	606	1212	Cebu – Zamboanga	269	538
Manila – Zamboanga	533	1066	Manila – Roxas	250	500
Manila – Cagayan de Oro	488	976	Manila – Kalibo	250	500
Manila – Dumaguete	400	800	Cebu – Davao	250	500
Manila – Cebu	356	712	Iloilo – Cebu	250	500
Manila – Tacloban	353	706	Bacolod – Cebu	250	500
Manila – Bacolod	299	598	Davao – Zamboanga	250	500
Manila – Iloilo	281	562			

Summit
Many Happy Returns

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1896, Series of 2001.

1 EAGLE, 4 BIRDIES

Mental mistakes mar Delasin start

DOROTHY Joy Delasin went on a zone with an eagle and four birdies on her first five holes only to fade badly on the way home and settle for a one-under-par 71 in the first round of the Weetabix Women's British Open in Sunningdale, England.

That left her four shots off solo leader Janice Moodie of Scotland in the rain-disrupted first round.

The 20-year-old Delasin, coming off a repeat victory in the Giant Eagle Classic in Vienna, Ohio, last week, wound up in the group tied at 16th place that included Se Ri Pak.

DELASIN

Delasin had a nightmare of a finish, dropping five strokes on the last eight holes.

Moodie played the first 16 holes at 4-under before play was stopped due to darkness and had to return to the course early in the morning on Friday. She birdied the 17th to inch ahead of erstwhile clubhouse leaders Laura Davies and Johanna Head.

Delasin said it could have been a lot better if not for mental mistakes down the stretch.

"I was playing solid golf and everything was going right until the bunker on the eighth when I didn't get it up and down. The harder I tried, the worse it got – just like quicksand," she said. "My ball striking was pretty good. But mentally I got down, that was (a problem today). This was just one day — I have three days left and I can make it up. Today's mistakes were mental mistakes. I need to get my mind in gear. It's early yet."

Delasin said that she was still trying to get used to the kind of greens in England which are far different than in the United States.

SPORTSWATCH

Roddick surprises Kuerten

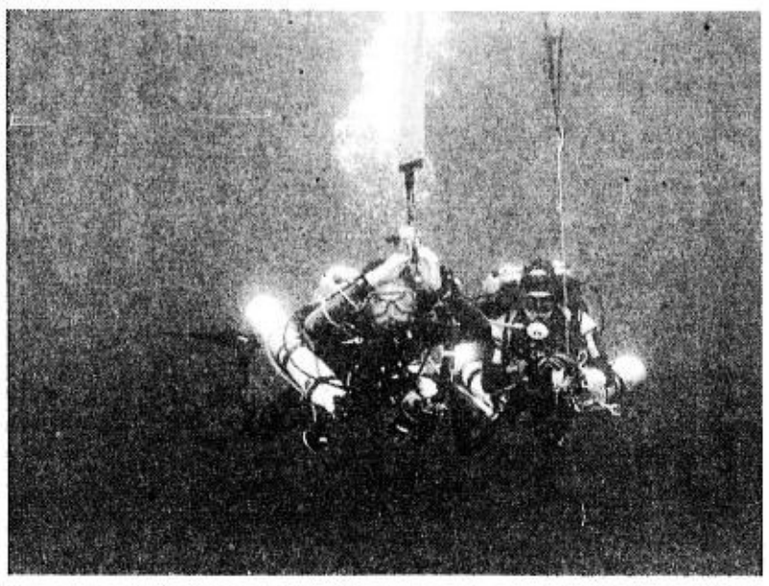
MONTREAL — Andy Roddick added another world No. 1 to his list of victims on Thursday, downing top-seeded Gustavo Kuerten 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals of the Tennis Masters Series-Canada. Roddick, 18, used a thundering serve and energetic baseline play to wear down the three-time French Open champion, who ended the 2000 season as the world's top-ranked player. The Omaha, Nebraska, native has shot up to the No. 35 ranking on the ATP entry system this year, leaving some of the top players in tennis in his wake. Kuerten is the fourth current or former world No. 1 he has beaten this year, after Pete Sampras, Marcelo Rios, and Carlos Moya, whom Roddick beat in the second round. *AP*

Manalastas tackles Zoleta

THIRD seed Carlo Manalastas battles Borgy Zoleta and No. 5 John Rey Moreno takes on Jonathan Molina in the boys' 18-under opening-round of the Philta Classic III Age Group Tennis Championships which kick off today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Other matches pit Art Philip Calingasan against Paul James Autor, Francis Venzon against Jacob Gil and Chase Tinio against Akimitsu Tevasake.

Shooting seminar starts today

A SEMINAR to spice up the ongoing Defense & Sporting Arms Show will be conducted on shooting (Olympic events), grassroots level development programs of the Philippine National Shooting Association and the structure of the Olympic movement today from 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Shooting happens to be one of the most popular Olympic events with 40 gold medals at stake. Airgun shooting which is part of the PNSA's grassroots programs will also be tackled. The PNSA is recognized by the Phil. Sports Commission.



TECREC DIVING

Gunter Taus and Milton Anderson dish out their talents at Ocean Colors, the first dive center in Manila to offer PADI/DSAT technical diving courses. Call or visit Ocean Colors at 6371 G/F Cancio Bldg, 1047 Metropolitan Ave., Makati, tel. 89017875 and 8904142 or email inquiries@oceancolors.com.

DERBY ROUNDUP

Salud entered at Roligon

LAWYER Rudy Salud is among those entered today in the Molino IV 4 Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Hosted by the group of Jess Capus, Edwin (ASF) Racio, Jonarie (RT 114) and Leo Mojeno, the derby, sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc., will be participated in by popular cockers and breeders in Metro Manila, Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Bulacan. Also expected to participate are Rep. Wacnang, Dennis Roldan, ASF, Ogawa and Saito, Benjie Lim and Louie Chua, among others. Promoter Danny (Showdown) Ty, known for his slogan "Bilis laban, bilis Bayad," said that today's submission of weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg is from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Revillas ready for 5-stag

A TOTAL of 20 cockers and breeders have so far registered in the upcoming "Annual LPC 5-Stag Derby" set Aug. 27 and 29 at the Las Piñas Cockpit. At stake is P500,000, plus three refrigerators to the champions. Entry fee is P11,000. Among the early birds are Danny Ty and Boy de Roca of Roligon, Sen. Ramon Revilla, Bong Revilla, Henry Medina, Roger del Rosario of Cavite Coliseum, Cito Manansala of Pasay Cockpit, Toto Papag of San Pedro Coliseum, Pasay Anniversary Derby champ Gerry Ramos, Cito Zamesa and Fil-Am cocker Richard Bates.

Bates expecting many entries

VETERAN Fil-Am cocker Richard Bates, host of the "Annual RLB 7-Stag Derby," slated on Aug. 28 and 30 at Mandaluyong Coliseum, is expecting a big field of participants to see action, based on the positive feedbacks from gamefowl breeders. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo. Stags banded by Pagba, Ucap, Migba, NGBA and GF-BAN are accepted to join, but subject to legbanding and age classification. Individual participants who prefer farm-to-farm screening may contact Bates at 0916-3156991 (cellphone), (046)-4140750 (Cavite) or 824-0237 (Manila). Entry fee is P25,000 and minimum bet is P11,000.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Art of Rose 2. Sharp Bullet 3. No Compromise 4. Speed Empire
Race 2—1. Jhelen 2. Baby Maxxine 3. Pretty Pleasing 4. Diamond Star
Race 3—1. Senor Perior 2. Boogie Shoes 3. Winning Prize 4. Defense Minister
Race 4—1. Morena 2. Flaming Bullet/Lyonnais 3. Free Bee 4. Silver Rose
Race 5—1. Winter's Fury 2. Ryuji 3. Silver Angel
Race 6—1. Pro Bono 2. Double Check 3. Ceasar's Inn 4. Perfect Gift
Race 7—1. Gemstone 2. Foolish Heart 3. Kay Rufina 4. Ysabela
Race 8—1. Nevada Dancer 2. Don't Worry 3. Jervis Bay 4. Rock's Dragon 5. Stately Emblem 6. Roman Dance
Race 9—1. Gutmoore 2. Fast Eddie/Belle D Amour 3. My Indy 4. Avalanche
Race 10—1. Hingis 2. Gorgeous Gal 3. Alleviator 4. Kamahalan 5. Kala Star
Race 11—1. Gallop for Gold 2. Bemedalled Ruler 3. Rose in Bloom 4. Be Ready
Race 12—1. Traktora 2. Uzisaki 3. Lady Queen 4. Gold Honors 5. Terminal Bound 6. As for Me
Race 13—1. Always 2. Corporate Law 3. Palachik 4. Sweet Topic

SEAG athletes ready–Garcia

COMMISSIONER Richie Garcia of the Philippine Sports Commission said yesterday the SEA Games-bound athletes are well-equipped and ready to win medals in Kuala Lumpur this September.

"We will definitely win more golds in Malaysia than what we had in Brunei," said Garcia, co-chair of the SEA Games Task Force. "They are ready for battle."

GARCIA

The final list of qualified athletes for the Games will be known on Monday, Aug. 6.

Garcia said the early formation of the Philippine contingent for the Games will enable the country's submission of the full roster of the national contingent in time for the Aug. 15 deadline given by the organizing committee in Kuala Lumpur.

Garcia made the assurance that those who will be named to the delegation had passed the careful scrutiny of the Task Force where Steve Hontiveros acts as co-chair.

The PSC official said they used the bronze medal performance during the last Southeast Asian Games in Brunei as the main qualifying standard.

Most coaches, according to Garcia, feel that winning 40 golds in Kuala Lumpur is attainable.

"Because there will be more events in Kuala Lumpur, we hope to double our gold medal output achieved in Brunei in 1999," said Garcia.

The Philippines collected only 19 gold medals in Brunei, the first time in more than two decades that it failed to break the 20-medal barrier.

The country won only 17 golds when the biennial meet was first held, also in Kuala Lumpur in 1977.

The Philippines participated in only 17 of 22 disciplines in Brunei but will now compete in 29 of 32 events in Malaysia.The Philippines participated in only 17 of 22 disciplines in Brunei but will now compete in 29 of 32 events in Malaysia.

NBA NOTES

Jordan wait

Henry Liao

CIRCLE the days between Sept. 8 and 15 in your calendar.

That's the time Michael Jordan will likely announce his decision to come out of a second NBA retirement and suit up for the Washington Wizards in the 2001-2002 wars that start Oct. 30.

The 38-year-old Jordan, who joined the moribund Wizards organization in January 2000 as president of basketball operations and minority owner, lately has been working out with the team, trying to get in shape to see if he can still play at a high level after a three-year sabbatical.

On July 13, Jordan scrimmaged with rookie power forward Kwame Brown, the first high schooler ever to be chosen with the No. 1 overall selection in last June's NBA draft, in the Wizards' first organized practice of the summer involving magical veterans, draft choices, free agents and undrafted wannabes.

His Airness was a surprise participant since he had slowed down his workouts after fracturing two ribs during a pickup game with NBA players in Chicago in mid-June when he was elbowed and grabbed from behind by Chicago Bulls swingman Ron Artest while twisting his torso.

In his first workout following the injury, it was reported that Jordan looked dominant and even survived some rough contact, getting knocked to the hardwood the first time the practice went full court.

However, Jordan, who last saw action in the NBA in June 1998 after leading the Chicago Bulls to their second NBA title "three-peat" of the 1990s (1991-93 and 1996-98), did not play (in any of the six games) with the Wizards' entry in the seven-day Shaw's Pro Summer League in Boston last month.

Jordan, a five-time NBA MVP, wants to decide whether he will play again in time before the speculations become a distraction to the team.

The Wizards open their training camp on Oct. 3.

To play for the Wizards, Jordan will have to divest his 50 percent interest in the franchise under NBA rules.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	65	43	.602	—
Boston	60	47	.561	4 1/2
Toronto	50	59	.459	15 1/2
Baltimore	45	64	.413	20 1/2
Tampa Bay	36	72	.333	29
Central				
Cleveland	61	46	.570	—
Minnesota	61	47	.565	1/2
Chicago	52	54	.491	8 1/2
Detroit	46	60	.434	14 1/2
Kansas City	43	65	.398	18 1/2
West				
Seattle	78	30	.722	—
Oakland	58	50	.537	20
Anaheim	56	52	.518	22
Texas	49	59	.454	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	61	47	.565	—
Philadelphia	59	49	.546	2
Florida	54	53	.505	6 1/2
New York	50	59	.459	11 1/2
Montreal	47	62	.431	14 1/2
Central				
Chicago	62	45	.579	—
Houston	59	49	.546	3 1/2
St. Louis	54	52	.509	7 1/2
Milwaukee	46	50	.434	15 1/2
Cincinnati	44	63	.411	18
Pittsburgh	41	66	.383	21
West				
Los Angeles	61	46	.560	
Arizona	60	48	.556	1/2
San Francisco	60	49	.550	1
San Diego	53	55	.491	7 1/2
Colorado	45	63	.417	15 1/2

COMPLETE RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota 9, Toronto 4; Texas 12, N.Y. Yankees 2; Tampa Bay 3, Baltimore 2; Anaheim 13, Boston 4; Seattle 2, Detroit 1; Oakland 17, Cleveland 4; Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 4, Florida 3; Philadelphia 4, Colorado 2; San Francisco 3, Pittsburgh 0; Montreal 1, Arizona 0; San Diego 4, Chicago Cubs 3; Houston 4, N.Y. Mets 3; 10 innings; Atlanta 2, St. Louis 1; Cincinnati 7, Los Angeles 4. *AP*

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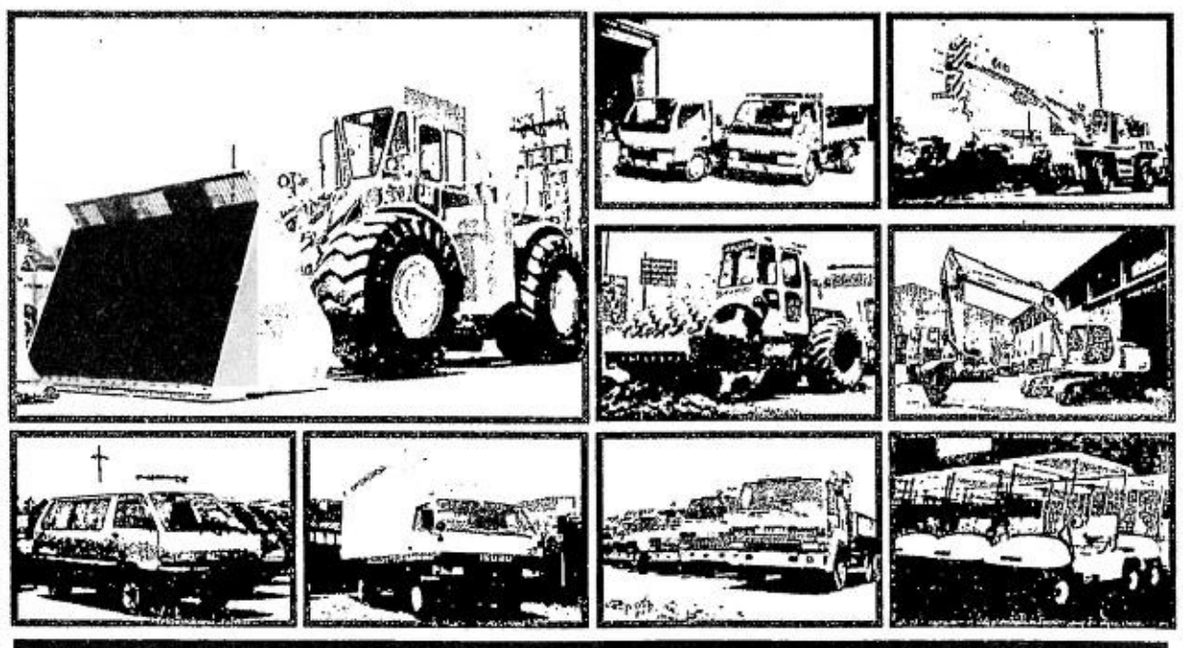

Preliminary Viewing Dates: August 1, 2 & 3, 2001
Pre-Registration Date: August 3, 4 & 6, 2001
Inspection Dates: August 4, 5 & 6, 2001

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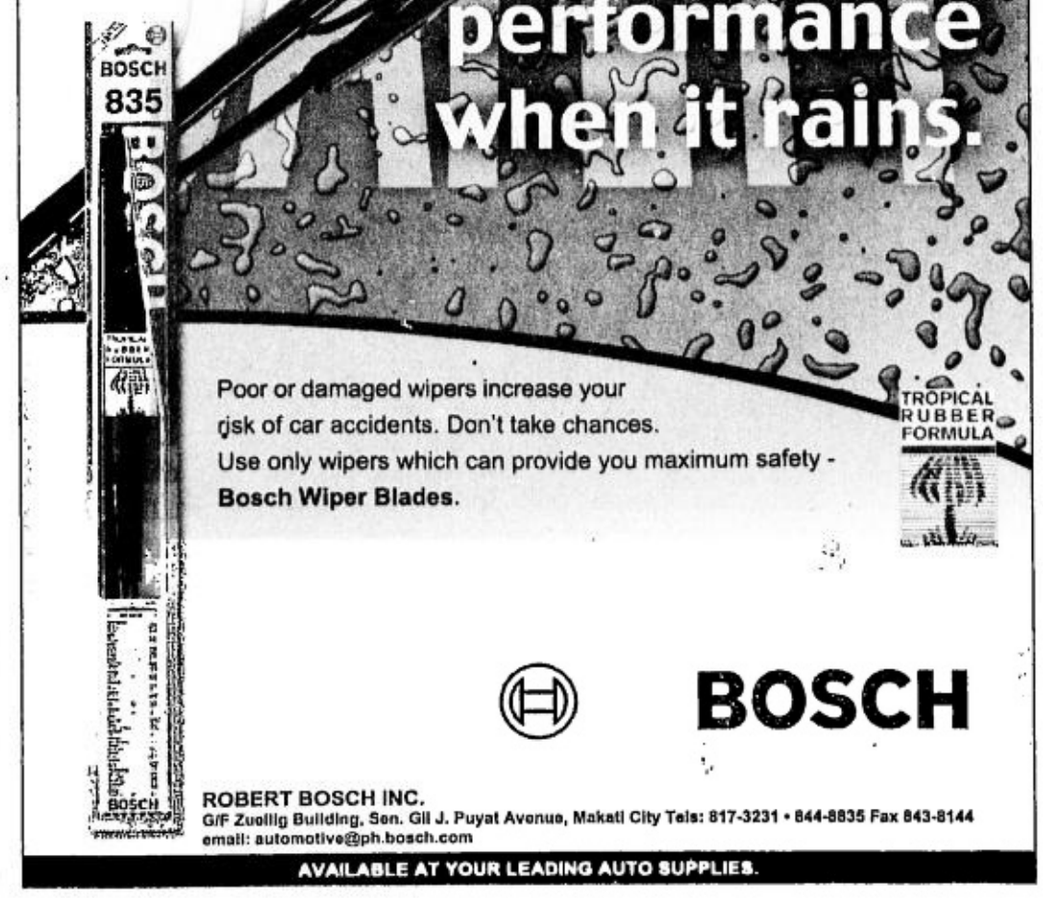

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AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

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TENNIS: Mercedes-Benz Tennis Masters Series (Montreal), Men's Quarterfinal Match at 7 a.m. (r- 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.), Men's Semifinal Match #1 tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

ATP Mercedes-Benz Cup, Finals at 5 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA - The International Presented, Second Round at 1 p.m. (r – 11:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Giant Eagle Classic, Final Round at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Hingis, Capriati, Davenport advance

CARLSBAD, California — Top-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland and third-seeded American Jennifer Capriati advanced to the quarterfinals yesterday of the Acura Classic. Hingis beat American Alexandra Stevenson, 6-1, 6-3, and Capriati overcame a 1-3 deficit in the first set to beat 15th-seeded Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia 6-4, 6-2. Fourth-seeded Lindsay Davenport of the United States also advanced, topping Austria's Barbara Schett 6-1, 7-5. *AP*

Lakers defeat Marlins

GAMES TOMORROW
La Salle Lipa Gym
3:00 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs LBC Batangas
University of St. La Salle (Bacolod)
5:30 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs Negros

BY ROY LUARCA

THE FEDEX Laguna Lakers got the morale-booster they needed with an 85-67 victory over the Socsargen Marlins last night in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the CP Tinga Gym In Taguig.

Though they have a lock at fifth place, the Lakers needed the win to prop up their confidence going into the knockout showdown with the elimination round fourth placer for the last semifinal slot on Wednesday.

Laguna wound up with a 7-7 record, while Socsargen, which played without the injured Bong Alvarez, languished at the cellar of the eight-team field at 2-12.

Chris Clay delivered again for the Lakers, coming through with 32 points, five rebounds, six assists and one steal that helped a lot to thwart the Marlins' comeback attempts.

Laguna coach Bonnie Garcia said they were prepared to meet any team in the knockout, but added they preferred meeting the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems.

Earlier, the Davao Eagles beat the Nueva Ecija Patriots, 104-93.

The Eagles, who drew 28 points each from rookie Peter Simon and veteran Romy dela Rosa, avenged their 107-93 defeat to the Patriots in their first encounter to wind up their campaign with a 3-win, 11-loss slate that tied them with their victims.

Simon had 20 second quarter points. The Eagles led by as many as 21 points.

Dela Rosa spiked his performance with six triples, nine rebounds, one assist and one steal to share best player honors with Simon, who made five Blitz 3s, four steals, three rebounds and three assists.

SMB, Red Bull win, take 2-1 lead

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m. – Purefoods vs Red Bull
6:30 p.m. – San Miguel vs Alaska

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

WITH Tim Cone getting thrown out, San Miguel Beer pulverized Alaska Milk, 80-74, in Game 3 of the PBA Commissioner's Cup semifinal series last night at the Astrodome.

The victory gave the Beermen a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five series and moved one victory away from their fourth straight championship appearance.

In the second game, Batang Red Bull also moved to within a win of making its first finals' appearance with a 100-86 victory over Purefoods.

SMB lost Game One, 75-66, but won Game 2, 79-71.

The Beermen used a 27-point, 58-31 bulge as buffer against the Aces' rally in the fourth quarter.

The normally cool Sean Chambers of Alaska engaged Freddie Abuda and Danny Ildefonso in a skirmish underneath the boards, eight minutes left in the third.

Abuda suffered a busted lip.

Four minutes later, Alaska coach Tim Cone got thrown out for berating a referee.

"I think it was Tim's strategy," said SMB coach Jong Uichico of Cone getting ejected out of the game. "But whether it worked or not, that I can't say."

The Aces trimmed the lead to just six before the final buzzer but that was because the Beermen were merely coasting along.

The Beermen sank 17 of their 32 attempts for a 53-percent shooting accuracy. Alaska had a mere 18-percent in the first half.

San Miguel built a 23-point cushion (42-19) entering the last two quarters, with Nate Johnson, Danny Seigle and Olsen Racela taking charge. Alaska had only eight points in the second quarter.

Scores:

SMB 80—Racela 15, Seigle 15, Ildefonso 14, Johnson 13, Pena 10, Belasco 7, Victoria 3, Iago 3, Abuda 0.

ALASKA 74—Duremdes 25, Peek 15, Santos 8, Arigo 8, Allado 6, Chambers 6, Ticzon 3, Ordonio 2, Evans 0, Reyes 0, Wallkvist 0.

Quarters: 19-11, 42-19, 64-43, 80-74.

CONE: Ejection did not pay off.

Ateneo battles UP for share of UAAP lead

GAMES TODAY
(Loyola Gym)
1:45 p.m.—UST vs NU
4:00 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	4	1
La Salle	4	1
Ateneo	3	1
UE	3	1
NU	2	3
UST	1	3
UP	1	3
Adamson	0	5

BY DENNIS U. EROA

ATENEO continues its relentless pursuit of the leaders as it clashes with University of the Philippines today even as skidding University of Santo Tomas and National University try to end their losing streaks today in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Ateneo Gym.

The Blue Eagles seek their fourth win as they battle the Maroons at 4 p.m., while the Tigers and the Bulldogs, both on a two-game slide, collide at 1:45 p.m. The Maroons dropped three games in a row after beating Adamson, 72-63, on July 14 at the Big Dome.

The Blue Eagles are soaring with three straight wins after losing to titlists Green Archers, 91-76, on July 15 although they struggled against the FEU Tamaraws (67-64) and Adamson Falcons (62-61).

La Salle and FEU share the leadership with similar 4-1 cards.

With Michael Bravo at the firing end, the Maroons nearly pulled the rug from under defending champion La Salle, 85-82, on July 21 but the Diliman-based dribblers must check their last-quarter collapses in order to stop the Eagles.

Aside from Ateneo's menacing frontline (Enrico Villanueva, Paolo Bugia, Rich Alvarez), coach Ryan Gregorio needs to clamp down on Lewis Tenorio, who mans the paint with authority. Tenorio will be challenged by fellow San Beda alumnus Mark Jomalesa, UP's starting pointguard.

NU's loss to La Salle, 88-87, last Thursday was a heartbreaker, justifying the pre-tournament claims of coaches Koy Banal and Franz Pumaren that this year's tournament is "too close to call."

Adidas Streetball goes to Baguio

BAGUIO City teams hope to dominate this weekend's Northern Luzon eliminations of the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2001 at Burnham Park.

Squads from the Pine City make up the bulk of the 310 entries in five divisions of the Adidas hoops event which has drawn teams from as far as Naga City and nearby La Union province.

A crew from the Ateneo de Naga has returned to defend its junior title and earn another shot at the National Finals of the country's most prestigious three-on-three event.

Other provincial entries come from Olongapo City, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan.

Tournament director Charlie Dy said annual admission tests for the University of the Philippines have caused entries to go down. Baguio City Mayor Bernardo Vergara and councilor Peter Rey Bautista are expected to open the Adidas Streetball Challenge, along with Adidas Philippine managing director John Alonte and Team Ventures head Emmanuel Penson.

Aside from getting P5,000 in cash and P10,000 worth of sports gear from Adidas Philippines, the winners will join champions from previous eliminations held at the NCR, Visayas and Mindanao in the National Finals set Aug. 11-12 at SM Megamall.

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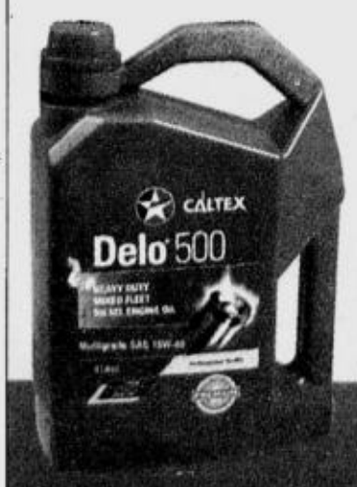

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AUGUST 3

6pm **myGlobe Infinity Party:** Formal opening of myGlobe Interactivity Booths and get to party with Rachel Alejandro, Anna Fegi, Geneva Cruz and Parliament Syndicate.

AUGUST 4

10am to 1pm **myGlobe Interactivity Booths open:** Register at the different booths, play the games, bid on hot items, and get to win cellphones and other prizes.

1pm to 6pm **PinoyCentral Celebrity Chat:** Chat with your favorite celebrities like Mai Mai Cojuangco, Angel Aquino, Kay Abad, JM Rodriguez, Geneva Cruz and more!

Log-on to: *myglobe.pinoycentral.com* for more details.

6:30pm **myGlobe No Limits Concert:** Featuring Silk and Passage.

7:30pm **"Bridget Jones's Diary" Premiere:** Glorietta 4, Cinema 6 (Invitation required)

9:00pm **myGlobe "G NIGHT":** Glorietta 4, Lobby, a one-night-only party at the place formerly known as Stars. Official bar host: WherElse?

AUGUST 5

10am to 6pm **myGlobe Interactivity Booths open:** Register at the different booths, play the games, bid on hot items, and get to win special prizes courtesy of McDonald's, Selecta Cornetto, and Ayala Mall merchants.

4pm to 6pm **Launch of Donita Rose Website:** Chat with your favorite MTV VJ online or through Globe Mobile Chat, and be one of the first to surf to her official website.

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Guard slain in bank heist A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Man hunted for beheading lover and her 2-year-old son

BY GREG REFRACCION
PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

PILAR, Bataan—Police are hunting in this province and in Metro Manila a man who allegedly beheaded and chopped the bodies of his live-in partner and her two-year-old son in Barangay Sta. Rosa here on Wednesday.

Chief Insp. Rodolfo Deticio, Pilar police director, said the suspect, Reynaldo Ramos, 24, used a bolo in beheading Cynthia Calimbas, 30, and her son AJ in their house here.

Deticio said Ramos also chopped off Calimbas' legs and AJ's arms.

The chopped body parts, which Ramos placed in a plastic bag, were discovered by Calimbas' neighbors along the bank of the Sta. Rosa River here.

Deticio said they have launched a manhunt for Reyes in the province and in Tondo and Malabon in Metro Manila, where Ramos reportedly has relatives.

Deticio said investigation showed that Ramos, a resident of Balanga City and reportedly a live-in partner of Calimbas for about a year, could have been hurt by Calimbas' decision to end their relationship.

Police reports said Calimbas' husband, a contract worker in Japan, called her up and told her that he would come home this month.

Calimbas' neighbors told police that they heard Ramos and Calimbas quarreling at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday. Later, they saw Ramos disposing of a plastic bag near the Sta. Rosa River.

When they inspected the contents of the plastic bag, the residents were shocked to find the severed heads and chopped bodies of Calimbas and her son inside it.

A victim's story

BY NENI STA. ROMANA-CRUZ

THE STORY of Maria Joanisa M. Pudadera, 18, who died clutching her backpack containing her day-old Nokia 3210 cell phone may not have hit the front pages, but it is a poignant story that deserves retelling.

Joan (pronounced as two syllables), the tall and pretty only daughter of Isabelita, a housewife, and Juan. Pudadera, a longtime trusted driver of the California Bus Lines assigned to the International School Bus service, did not care for any special celebration on her 18th birthday on June

A VICTIM'S/A21

Cell phone snatchers shoot student to death

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

COLLEGE student Jether Jarnes Castillo, 19, did not get to read the "take care" text message his girl friend sent him Thursday night.

Castillo, of 10 Korea Avenue, Green Heights Subdivision in Nangka, Marikina, was shot in the head after fighting off unidentified suspects who tried to snatch his cell phone near the Sandiganbayan building in Quezon City.

The suspects shot Castillo at point blank range, said investigator

CELL/A20

Hayashi gave away money to friends, lovers, cops say

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

HAYASHI

JAPANESE harpist Tadao Hayashi was not a rich man when he died a gruesome death last July 22.

Despite a career that spanned more than two decades in the local music scene, the jazz artist appeared to own only the two-bedroom bungalow at LD Village in Tala, Caloocan City where he was found dead, according to Supt. Dionicio Borromero, chief of the Caloocan Station Investigation and Intelligence Division.

Police had found this out after conducting an initial inventory of Hayashi's property.

But even the bungalow was registered in the name of his trusted aide, Antonio Clet, 47, who said earlier that legal impediments had prevented Hayashi from owning property.

The bungalow Hayashi owned would be converted into a place of worship for a charismatic group where Hayashi belonged, Borromeo said.

Describing Hayashi as very generous, Borromeo said the musician was not able to invest in anything else.

He said that Hayashi even had to sell his car because of financial problems.

Most of what he earned from his records and stints in bars and hotels, including his pension from the Japanese government, appeared to have gone to his closest friends and lovers, Borromeo said.

"Whenever someone was in need, Hayashi would always dole out cash. He was always willing to help."

The discovery that Hayashi was not a rich man when he died appeared to have cleared Clet of his murder.

Clet was Hayashi's aide for 13 years.

"We couldn't find any motive on the part of Clet. Hayashi gave him money on a regular basis. Why would Clet still want his boss dead?" Borromeo said.

Police are sticking to the angle that Hayashi's lover Alex Ilagan, 31, killed the musician after he failed to give in to his demand.

Another witness, a schoolteacher, surfaced and told police that she saw Ilagan at Hayashi's house about a month before Hayashi's death, Borromeo said.

Her testimony, police said, would destroy the credibility of Ilagan, who had earlier claimed that he last saw Hayashi over two years ago.

Police are banking on the testimony of primary witness Reynaldo Ortillano who said he had seen Ilagan knocking at Hayashi's gate on the night of the killing.

Authorities have already filed criminal charges against Ilagan before the city prosecutor's office.

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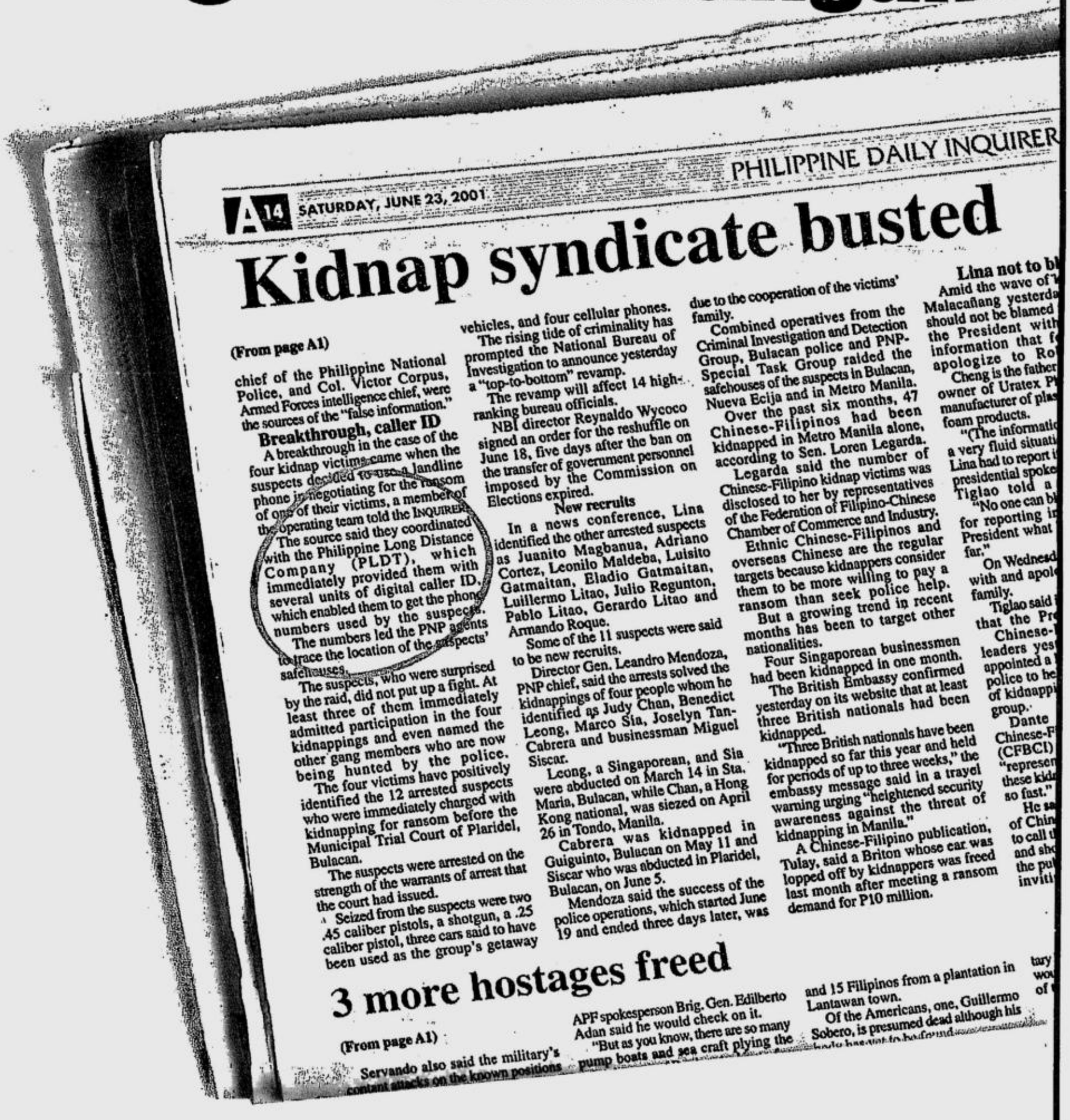
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A 14 SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2001
Kidnap syndicate busted
(From page A1)
chief of the Philippine National Police, and Col. Victor Corpus, Armed Forces intelligence chief, were the sources of the "false information."
Breakthrough, caller ID
A breakthrough in the case of the four kidnap victims came when the suspects decided to use a landline phone in negotiating for the ransom of one of their victims, a member of the operating team told the INQUIRER.
The source said they coordinated with the Philippine Long Distance Company (PLDT), which immediately provided them with several units of digital caller ID, which enabled them to get the phone numbers used by the suspects.
The numbers led the PNP agents to trace the location of the suspects' safehouses.
The suspects, who were surprised by the raid, did not put up a fight. At least three of them immediately admitted participation in the four kidnappings and even named the other gang members who are now being hunted by the police.
The four victims have positively identified the 12 arrested suspects who were immediately charged with kidnapping for ransom before the Municipal Trial Court of Plaridel, Bulacan.
The suspects were arrested on the strength of the warrants of arrest that the court had issued.
Seized from the suspects were two .45 caliber pistols, a shotgun, a .25 caliber pistol, three cars said to have been used as the group's getaway vehicles, and four cellular phones.
The rising tide of criminality has prompted the National Bureau of Investigation to announce yesterday a "top-to-bottom" revamp.
The revamp will affect 14 high-ranking bureau officials.
NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco signed an order for the reshuffle on June 18, five days after the ban on the transfer of government personnel imposed by the Commission on Elections expired.
New recruits
In a news conference, Lina identified the other arrested suspects as Juanito Magbanua, Adriano Cortez, Leonilo Maldeba, Luisito Gatmaitan, Eladio Gatmaitan, Luillermo Litao, Julio Regunton, Pablo Litao, Gerardo Litao and Armando Roque.
Some of the 11 suspects were said to be new recruits.
Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said the arrests solved the kidnappings of four people whom he identified as Judy Chan, Benedict Leong, Marco Sia, Joselyn Tan-Cabrera and businessman Miguel Siscar.
Leong, a Singaporean, and Sia were abducted on March 14 in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, while Chan, a Hong Kong national, was siezed on April 26 in Tondo, Manila.
Cabrera was kidnapped in Guiguinto, Bulacan on May 11 and Siscar who was abducted in Plaridel, Bulacan, on June 5.
Mendoza said the success of the police operations, which started June 19 and ended three days later, was due to the cooperation of the victims' family.
Combined operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Bulacan police and PNP-Special Task Group raided the safehouses of the suspects in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and in Metro Manila.
Over the past six months, 47 Chinese-Filipinos had been kidnapped in Metro Manila alone, according to Sen. Loren Legarda.
Legarda said the number of Chinese-Filipino kidnap victims was disclosed to her by representatives of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
Ethnic Chinese-Filipinos and overseas Chinese are the regular targets because kidnappers consider them to be more willing to pay a ransom than seek police help.
But a growing trend in recent months has been to target other nationalities.
Four Singaporean businessmen had been kidnapped in one month.
The British Embassy confirmed yesterday on its website that at least three British nationals had been kidnapped.
"Three British nationals have been kidnapped so far this year and held for periods of up to three weeks," the embassy message said in a travel warning urging "heightened security awareness against the threat of kidnapping in Manila."
A Chinese-Filipino publication, Tulay, said a Briton whose ear was lopped off by kidnappers was freed last month after meeting a ransom demand for P10 million.
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(From page A1)
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APF spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said he would check on it.
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and 15 Filipinos from a plantation in Lantawan town.
Of the Americans, one, Guillermo Sobero, is presumed dead although his
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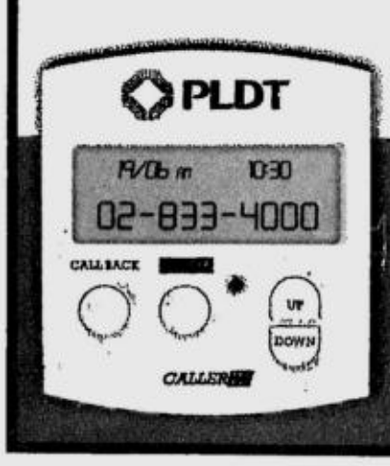

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Make up your mind, Malonzo tells poll body

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

MALONZO

THE CAMP of Caloocan OIC Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to "make up its mind" and immediately proclaim the official winners in the May 14 elections in Caloocan.

Leading congressional candidate Edgar Erice, Malonzo's party mate, criticized the Comelec for its failure to decide on a petition to declare an election failure filed by ex-Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio over two months ago.

Erice urged the Comelec to immediately decide on the petition and finally end what he described as an election crisis in the city.

But Comelec yesterday proclaimed Caloocan City congressman-elect Enrico "Recom" Echiverri after the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on a Comelec resolution suspending the proclamation of winners in Caloocan pending the resolution of Asistio's petition.

Echiverri is Erice's party mate and was proclaimed congressman of the city's first district.

"There was no failure of elections in my district (District 1)," said Echiverri who waited two months and 19 days for his proclamation. "My constituents have spoken in the May 14 elections and it is a relief that their voice was finally heard.

"As a result of my ordeal, one of my priorities in Congress would be electoral reforms because we have a situation where cases like this have no time limitations. The Comelec can just sit on them."

A reelectionist, Echiverri was proclaimed about 5:30 p.m. on the seventh floor of the Comelec annex at the Palacio del Gobernador in Intramuros, Manila.

The proclamation came after the newly constituted city board of canvassers headed by lawyer Ferdinand Rafanan had resolved that he won over challenger Oscar Malapitan by 41,380 votes.

The canvassing of votes showed Echiverri with 94,631 to Malapitan's 53,251 votes.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo on Wednesday announced that Malonzo and other winners in Caloocan would be proclaimed based on the TRO. But the Supreme Court issued a clarification on Thursday, saying that the TRO covered only Echiverri, who had filed for a petition for a preliminary injunction with the Supreme Court on the Comelec suspension of the proclamation of winners.

Benipayo had also said on Thursday that Malonzo and the other winners could file similar petitions with the SC and "would probably get the same result." But filing a petition cost money, said Erice.

"It seems that there's a double-standard. Those who have money can easily file a petition and it would be granted. How about those like me who don't have money?"

Erice said that a candidate needs about P500,000 in lawyer's fee to file an election petition before the high court.

Even if he were frustrated again by not being proclaimed, Malonzo said "it's okay, we'll just keep on waiting. We're in (place) anyway."

Malonzo waited an hour outside the Comelec office on Wednesday after Benipayo ordered Rafanan to proclaim all winning candidates based on the SC TRO.

Malacañang earlier appointed Malonzo and most of his partymates as OICs of Caloocan pending the Comelec resolution on Asistio's petition.

Guard slain in Metrobank heist

BY NELSON FLORES

ARMED men yesterday shot dead a security guard during a foiled bank robbery in Pasay City.

Security guard Romeo Villamente, of the Puritan Security Agency, suffered a gunshot wound in the forehead and died a few minutes after he was rushed to the nearby Manila Sanitarium Hospital.

The robbers escaped without taking anything from the Metrobank branch on Taft Avenue near the corner of Gil Puyat Avenue after members of the Pasay City Police Special Weapons and Tactics team arrived and foiled the robbery.

Unfortunately, they were too late to prevent the death of Villamente.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District Office director, said the robbers pretended to be clients and entered the bank about 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

Once inside the bank, the robbers pulled out their.9 mm pistols and tried to disarm Villamente, police said.

But the guard resisted and was shot at close range by one of the robbers, police said.

The robbers then ordered all bank clients and personnel to lie face down on the floor, but members of the Pasay City Polcie SWAT team arrived, police said.

The robbers, police said, apparently panicked and escaped through the back door of the bank.

They were last seen scampering toward Cartimar Market, but disappeared among the crowd, police said.

One of the robbers who acted as a lookout was in *barong* Tagalog and looked familiar to some bank employees. The other suspects were in shirts and denim pants, police said.

Investigators already have leads on the identity of the suspects and said the empty shells of their .9mm pistols left at the crime scene could also help in their investigation.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

A POLICEMAN keeps watch outside the Metrobank branch that was attacked by four armed men.

Military officer confirms my story about Lacson

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

A TOP military official has confirmed that Sen. Panfilo Lacson has huge dollar deposits abroad. Wait for the full report in this paper about this.

I have been vindicated by the revelation.

Lacson has consistently denied my allegations that he is facing money laundering charges in the United States for his mind-boggling deposits in several banks. The money laundering suit stemmed from his apprehension by US customs at the US-Canadian border last year. Lacson had tried to bring into the US $8 million.

***

The confirmation by the military intelligence officer has exposed Lacson for what he is: a big liar.

This guy can lie with a straight face. I think he was born a liar.

Now that Lacson has been exposed as a liar, all the things he has said about me have been exposed as lies, too.

***

I'm not at liberty now to cite figures in this space but they are mind-boggling. When I first saw the list of bank deposits, I was amazed, nay incredulous!

How could such huge amount, I said to myself, be accumulated by one man in so short a time?

I reached a conclusion: drug money and ransom payments.

It confirms rumors that Lacson was involved in big-time drug trafficking, kidnap for ransom and bank robbery.

***

Lacson first got a taste of handling dollars, my sources said, when he and his men at the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) rounded up 11 suspected bank robbers and executed them.

Those bank robbery suspects, according to my sources, had $2.5 million they got from an armored van that was on the way to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The holdup men, belonging to the notorious Kuratong Baleleng gang, had hijacked the van. The $2.5 million the van was carrying was to have been taken aboard a flight to Hong Kong.

Lacson and his cohorts kept the money for themselves. That's the reason why, SPO2 Eduardo delos Reyes, who went to the massacre scene to investigate, blew the whistle on Lacson and his men. Delos Reyes said there was never any shootout between Lacson's men and the dead suspects. Delos Reyes was not given part of the loot.

Even in the distribution of the booty, Lacson was greedy. He had the lion's share.

***

Probably because he had a big amount of dollars in his hands, he thought he wanted some more. And he did get more, much, much more.

And so Lacson probably began his life of crime. And so he probably got involved in drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom. Those two crimes were sources of easy money.

Lacson has become a multi-billionaire since then.

***

I am asking my editors at the Inquirer to investigate Lacson's allegations that I received P250,000 monthly from former Philippine National Police chief Roberto Lastimoso.

His charge is so serious some readers might believe that I'm a paid hack.

But I demand that his colleagues in the Senate investigate him.

***

I wonder what's taking the Senate so long to conduct an investigation of my allegations that he is a criminal and a topnotch crook.

Are you afraid of Lacson, honorable members of the Senate? Or you're just trying to protect a member of the Old Boys Club which the Senate seems to have become?

My accusations are serious. If you can conduct an investigation into the Brunei Beauties, into why a movie actress was not accepted by a prestigious Catholic university, which are all frivolous, if you ask me, why can't you investigate allegations that one of you in the august body is a ruthless killer, kidnapper, bank robber and drug trafficker?

***

The huge dollar deposits only show that Lacson was not the police officer that he had projected himself to be.

All this time he was able to make the public believe that he was Mr. Clean, an angel, when he is the personification of evil. To put it in Tagalog, *siya ay kampon ni Satanas.*

But how did this "fine young officer" I came to know in 1975 or 1976 metamorphose into the monster that he is today?

***

Well, even then, if we would believe the confession of a dying man, Francisco "Kit" Mateo, Lacson's former hit man, the boyish-looking former PNP chief and chief of the powerful Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) was already an evil man.

In his death bed, Mateo said that he murdered innocent civilians under orders of Lacson, who was a member of the notorious Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) during martial law.

For example, according to Mateo, Lacson ordered the killing of a teenage boy who was the boyfriend of a coed at the Far Eastern University (FEU) in 1975. The girl's parents were against the relationship, Mateo said. He said that Lacson, who was a friend of the girl's parents, ordered the boy executed to please the parents.

***

Now, Honorable Senators, will you still dillydally in investigating your colleague despite the overwhelming evidence against him?

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 4, 2001
17th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Lev 25:1, 8-17*
Gospel: *Mt 14:1-12*

On one occasion the news about Jesus reached King Herod. And he said to his servants, "This man is John the Baptist. John has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

Herod had, in fact, ordered that John be arrested, bound in chains and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. For John had said to him, "It is not right for you to have her as wife." Herod wanted to kill him but he did not dare, because he feared the people who regarded John as a prophet.

On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced in the midst of the guests; she so delighted Herod that he promised under oath to give her anything she asked. The girl, following the advice of her mother, said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a dish."

The king was very displeased, but because he had made this promise under oath in the presence of the guests, he ordered it to be given her. So he had John beheaded in prison and his head brought on a dish and given to the girl. The girl then took it to her mother.

Then John's disciples came to take his body and bury it. And they went to bring the news to Jesus.

Commentary

Fear is the opposite of faith. Where faith guides people to truth and to life fear alienates them from their true selves and turns them into sick persons. Herod is a typical example of this attitude. Although he respected John the Baptist as a prophet and liked to listen to him, he had him arrested nevertheless because of fear of the truth. Because of the fear of losing face during a birthday party he had him put to death. He feared that John had come back to life in the person of Jesus and for this reason planned to kill Jesus, too (cf. Luke 13:13). Today's reading illustrates the sad effects of fear and invites us to believe in Jesus as the one sent by God to set us free.

Heavenly Father, we are afraid of the truth even if it is the only force that can set us free. Deliver us from fear so that we can live as your children.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Quashal of a writ of attachment—There are only 2 ways of quashing a writ of attachment: (a) by filing a counterbond immediately; or (b) by moving to quash on the ground of improper and irregular issuance. These grounds for the dissolution of an attachment are fixed in Rule 57 of the Rules of Court and the power of the Court to dissolve an attachment is circumscribed by the grounds specified therein. Petitioner's motion to lift attachment failed to demonstrate any infirmity or defect in the issuance of the writ of attachment; neither did he file a counterbond. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Chuidian v. Sandiganbayan (Fifth Division), G.R. No. 139941, January 19, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B.

Why ROTC must be abolished

BY J. LEAHCIM M. NANULA

A MANIFESTO signed by presidents of nine universities opposing military training programs recently appeared in a paid advertisement. It also condemned the slaying of UST student Mark Welson Chua who had exposed the alleged corrupt practices in the Reserve Officers Training Program (ROTC) of the university where he was a third year engineering student.

That the manifesto was left unnoticed or was sidetracked because of other headline stories like the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings must have prompted the paid advertisement.

But after the students themselves revived the issue, even the Commission on Higher Education is calling for the abolition of ROTC.

Even as apologists continue to push for more military training in schools using the Abu Sayyaf issue and the Mindanao war as good excuses, a new debate is bound to escalate.

Irrelevant

For so many decades, nobody seemed to listen to the complaints of students against military training, no matter how it is called—ROTC, CMT, PMT, CAT, YADO, etc. Students simply detested military training, military haircuts, military drills, and military discipline.

As in industrial countries and in the movies, the military would always want sustained war to justify its existence and its demand for bigger budgets.

Despite the war in Mindanao, militarism is now irrelevant as we enter the knowledge society or the information technology (IT) age. For one, the cold war on the global front has long thawed. For another, martial law and any vestige of militarism and totalitarianism have now become things of the past.

Militarism or authoritarianism is also now anathema to the new and modem politics of people power. Military discipline or obeying authority without question has been replaced by more freedom with responsibility. Centralized authority has been replaced by decentralization, regulation by deregulation, turf-building by team-building.

Individualism

Existing military programs do not really make good reserve soldiers out of students. Facilities and equipment are sorely lacking, anyway. Students are not taught much how to think, but to simply follow orders without question. Modern wars and battles are now fought with computers and by people who are trained to think and not to simply follow orders.

Militarism also does not go well with the youth's emerging culture of individualism and assertiveness. Inherently, the youth detests authority, which is the culture of militarism.

Lastly, insurgency as a problem cannot be solved by militarism alone. In fact, insurgency is a product of deeper-rooted problems--economic poverty, social injustice and political and cultural deprivation.

Perhaps, only those who are really interested in pursuing a military career should be allowed freely to undergo military training. Maybe, incentives can be offered to them, but let us not compel every student to do the same as it is useless, anyway.

Instead of student military training, let us push for alternative programs like sports, civic action work and entrepreneurship.

Why sports? Apart from developing healthy bodies, we need a new culture of sportsmanship as a people. Many petty crimes could be avoided if only Filipinos were sports-minded. Tribal and clannish retaliatory or vengeful actions could die down or be erased from the culture. Sore losers and electoral protests can also be minimized.

Other positive values and traits like perseverance, sacrifice, teamwork, determination, competing fair and square, and magnanimity in victory can also be developed through sports. Moreover, we can produce superior and highly competitive athletes through a massive sports development program.

Relevant alternative

A civic action program is another relevant alternative to military training. This may include "clean and green" or zero-waste recyling projects; disaster and relief operations (i.e., earthquake and fire drills); health and other paramedic extension services; swimming, first aid and other skills that are taught in military training minus the military drills, marches and rifle-handling.

All these programs and many more can help produce not only economically productive but also socially responsible citizens.

Perhaps, these alternative programs can help produce a new crop from our educational system. Right now, our schools only produce three types: highly skilled workers who work as OCWs in the Middle East and domestic helpers; highly skilled managers who become top executives of big multinational firms; and highly skilled professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc.

Cell phone . . .

(From page A19)

PO2 Leo Tabuena, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

A Nokia cell phone and a wallet containing P300 were found on Castillo.

Police could not identify the model of the cell phone but said it was a new model and certainly expensive.

Police theorized that Castillo must have accompanied his girlfriend home when the shooting happened about 10:30 p.m. at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and the Batasan Road, police said. They noted that Castillo lived in Marikina.

Witnesses told police they heard three successive gunshots then saw Castillo slump on the roadside.

Members of the CPD-Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team were able to identify Castillo from an identification card they found on him.

While police were still scouring the crime scene, Castillo received a text message on his cell phone from a girl. The message said, "You take care."

The cell phone also rang several times, police said.

HONEST CABBIE

Taxi driver Leonardo "Leo" Villagracia, 42, returned the handbag of Mrs. Tita M. Trillo, president of Anthony's Wines and Spirits Corp., that she left in his cab which she had taken from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last week. Mrs. Trillo said the bag contained cash, credit cards and important documents, which were all intact. She learned that Villagracia is the sole family breadwinner. He has five children, two of whom should be in college but are not enrolled. The Villagracias live beside a creek in a slum in Baclaran.

A victim's story

(From page A19)

16. Because classes had begun at the Global School Technology where she was a computer science sophomore, neither could she join her parents on a rare two-week vacation in her mother's hometown in Baybay, Leyte.

Long before her birthday, she had told them that she only wanted one gift on her birthday, a Nokia 3210. Never known to be unreasonable or demanding, Joan, for the first time insisted on just that. This, despite the usual arguments from her parents about a cell phone being an unnecessary expense and a hot item, a dangerous temptation to many.

"What's important is that you finish your studies," Isabelita remembers telling her daughter. But that argument was hardly necessary because Joan was getting very good grades in school and had an assortment of medals and awards to show for it. And who can deny such a simple request on a daughter's special day?

Tight budget

This was not an easy purchase for the family, but something that her father had to save for months in advance, by having a small amount automatically deducted from his salary each pay day. There was money set aside for Joan's gift, but a loan had to be made for the couple's vacation since having both expenses simultaneously was a definite strain on a tight family budget.

Joan bid her parents goodbye, reminding her father to please not to spend the money for her cell phone. Even during the frequent telephone calls made to Baybay, Joan would tease her father again and again about that.

It was during one of those conversations that she told them that on the day of her birthday, *Ate* Arlyn, one of two boarders in their house, would prepare spaghetti and chicken for her, and her small circle of friends would bring a cake. She had picked up her father's salary from the bus company and was allowed to spend a part of that for her simple celebration.

As soon as her parents arrived toward the end of June, Joan arranged with her father to go to the Greenhills *tiangge* on Sunday, July 1, to buy her birthday gift. She was all set to go at 8 a.m. and was growing impatient that her father was far from ready.

When they got there, Joan knew exactly what she wanted, the Nokia 3210 which cost P6,000. There was just money left for the blue-violet casing she had long dreamt of, plus a P100 prepaid card.

New toy

All of Sunday was spent trying out her new toy, calling and texting friends here and there, until she had used up her card. While she allowed both her parents to try out its wonders, patiently giving them lessons, she did not allow them to hold it on their own, lest it fall and suffer some scratches.

Her excitement was not doused by their nagging reminders to take good care of it and never to flaunt it. "That's not for display," they kept saying over and over.

The next morning, her mother noticed that the new cell phone in its blue-violet casing lay beside Joan who was still asleep. She was curious to see what messages there were, but smiled when she remembered that she did not really know what buttons to press.

When Joan left for school that day, picked up as usual by childhood bosom friend Rizza Rivera, Isabelita recalls commenting out loud on how pretty her daughter looked and how specially fresh and fragrant she was.

Joan, bedimpled like her father, hammed it up for her admiring mother, enjoying the lavish and loving compliments, saying it was all just a matter of carrying one's self well.

Neither Juan nor Isabelita had any premonition of the cruel and ironic event that was to take place hours after, until that telephone call at about the time Joan was expected to be home from school. The telephone ring itself had a sinister tone to it and when it was a distraught Rizza who called to ask Joan's parents to rush to a nearby hospital, they knew something was not right.

Tug-of-war

Joan had collapsed, never to be roused again, in a jeepney she and Rizza were riding home toward Tandang Sora. She suddenly turned unconscious after a male passenger in his twenties and wearing a hat, and who sat beside her, had caused a commotion on board as he ran off with her backpack containing her birthday gift.

It was over in a matter of minutes, their tug-of-war as she refused to let go of the backpack that she protectively hugged. How it must have pained Joan to let go of the cell phone and the hard work that made its purchase possible, for it took two stab wounds in both arms and the fatal stabs in her thorax for her to finally let go.

And even after that, her last words to Rizza, who sat a few passengers away from her, were a defiant, "Let's run after him." The two friends could have done just that, for Joan did not appear bloodied at all. But the wounds from an ice pick or a two-bladed knife cut deep, literally piercing her heart, for it was hemorrhagic shock that was said to have caused her death.

Isabelita could not bare to look at Joan in the emergency ward, being revived by a medical team in a nervous huddle over her lifeless body. But she recognized her daughter's feet. It was far too cruel for any mother to have to go through. And she knew immediately what it meant when one doctor began to say, "We did all we could..."

Last image

Her father will always carry with him this last image of his daughter, her mouth open in a frozen muted scream for help and her eyes speaking of terror and fright, refusing to shut. And there was Rizza, with her friend till the end, but beside herself with sorrow that she could not help her friend in distress.

Even while Joan lay in state in a white coffin at their home, adorned with a long chain of sampaguita garlands given by the neighborhood kids who contributed a few pesos each, an anonymous telephone call had come. It was a promise of help from a concerned citizen, a male voice who had reassured the Pudaderas that he would help, since he, a bystander in front of the Iglesia ni Cristo building, witnessed it all, even following the assailant to the side street where he sought cover.

Two weeks after Joan was laid to rest in a public cemetery close to Novaliches, the promised follow-up call had not come.

Juan and Isabelita awake each day, off to appointments with one government agency and then another, all with promises to pursue the case, but only after an eyewitness assists the cartographer by providing telltale details toward a face closest to that of the suspect.

Clutching the few documents that give them hope -- the medico-legal report, two tabloid news clips which reported the murder of Joan, and a few prized photos from Joan's 18th birthday party at their house — father and mother are attempting some normalcy in their lives.

Guilt

Juan has started to attend requisite seminars for school bus drivers, but admits that his mind is not always altogether there. He is burdened with guilt, wondering if things would have turned out differently if he did not buy Joan the cell phone of her dreams. Perhaps then she would not have clung to her backpack the way she did?

Accounts indicate that Joan was not using her cell phone because the battery supply had gone low and there was no way for the jeepney passengers to know that she carried a cell phone.

Isabelita finds it difficult to be left at home alone with her memories of her daughter.

She pretends that she is only in school, but the hour of her usual arrival in the evening then becomes fraught with sadness. Even Joan's white pets, a dog teasingly named LorJohn after her parents and a white cat, futilely await her arrival from school.

There are just too many reminders of Joan. Isabelita also has lost interest in tending to her small *sari-sari* store, wondering why she has to continue to find ways to earn more money, with her daughter gone.

Recollection

The first day she was alone at home, she busied herself with household chores, even doing the neglected laundry from their trip and the duration of the wake. She sobbed even then because among these were Joan's favorite shirts, including her white birthday T-shirt, never to be worn again.

The grieving parents light up and smile only at their recollection of Joan the ideal daughter who loved to use her father's cologne from the US, a gift given him by his boss, and her trademark Bench scent, a fragrance they smell at home every now and then together with a strange chill.

What they find most heartwarming are the times Joan would be dreaming out loud of finally working, buying her parents a home in a gated village, not in a squatters area where they reside now. getting them a car, and freeing them from the day's burdens of trying to make ends meet.

Hoping

Rizza is a critical witness, though she must be carrying such a burden these days. She has resumed her schedule to near-normalcy, but worries that she may not be of help, for she is alternately sure and unsure of what the assailant looked like.

The Pudaderas have reassured her to just relax, for perhaps it may come in a dream.

Juan and Isabelita try to make sense of their loss as they seek justice for her death.

They muster courage by reminding themselves that "we only borrowed her." They are trying to get TV and radio stations to make regular public announcement appeals, but only have one contact in that route.

And they do not lose hope that one of these days, a brave soul will again call their home (tel. 931-0042) to give them the lead they need.

VICTIM Joan Pudadera celebrated her 18th birthday two weeks before she was killed.

VICTIM'S parents Isabelita and Juan Pudadera.

Vendor kills stepdad for beating mom

BY JEROME ANING

POLICE are looking for a 21-year-old market vendor who allegedly stabbed to death his former stepfather who beat up his mother in Tondo, Manila early Thursday night.

The victim, Rodolfo Pleno, 30, a resident of 972 Camba St., Tondo, suffered several stab wounds in various parts of the body. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center.

Pleno and suspect Alberto Navales, of Area D, Gate 16, Talipapa, Parola Compound, Tondo, were drinking with their neighbors inside a small shanty near a flea market in the area around 6 p.m. Thursday when their talk shifted to Pleno's alleged beating up of Navales' mother Gloria.

Investigators led by SP03 Ismael de la Cruz said Pleno and Gloria were live-in partners until a few months ago.

Navales reportedly accused Pleno of beating up his mother. A fistfight ensued and the suspect whipped out a dagger and stabbed Pleno repeatedly.

Navales, who fled, is facing a charge of homicide.

Billiard player slain by rival

A BILLIARD aficionado died after an envious competitor shot him before dawn yesterday in Makati City.

Erwin Gonzales, a local billiard player with no known address, was pronounced dead on arrival at the St. Claire Hospital from a gunshot wound in the chest.

Gonzales's assailant, who was identified by witnesses as Clarence Antonio alias Baby Face, escaped after the shooting, police said.

Investigation showed that Gonzales had just stepped out of the billiard hall on Calatagan Street in Barangay Palanan about 2 a.m. after playing his favorite billiard game of rotation, said SPO4 Alfredo Bello, Makati City police station desk officer.

The suspect who was armed with a gun of still unknown caliber then approached Gonzales and shot him at close range, police said.

Except for their rivalry in the game of billiard, the suspect, police said, had no known motive for killing Gonzales.

But the suspect might have an old grudge against Gonzales, police said.

Police are now hunting down the suspect.

Police are appealing to the victim's relatives to claim his body at the St. Claire Hospital morgue.

Nelson F. Flores

Evidence linking youth to death of priest is weak, says lawyer

BY JEROME ANING

AUTHORITIES will have a hard time pinning the death of a Catholic priest on student Alain Patrick Bayudan since the evidence linking him to the crime is "weak," Bayudan's lawyer said yesterday.

"Fire investigators don't have direct evidence against Alain Patrick; what (evidence) they have at present, they will find difficult to connect to the suspect," lawyer Vicente Roy Kayaban told the **Inquirer** in an interview.

Bayudan is under detention at the Manila Fire Department's arson division in Sta. Cruz. He was accused of setting fire to the house of Fr. Raul Villamiel, curate of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Bacood, Sta. Mesa. The priest allegedly died of suffocation as a result of the fire.

Bayudan has been charged with consummated arson before the city prosecutor's office on Wednesday. The suspect was the driver and a member of Fr. Villamiel's staff.

The lawyer said Bayudan is innocent of any crime, adding that the fire department and the police should treat as suspects all those present in the house or were in the vicinity of the parish at the time of the fire.

Bayudan was allegedly caught trying to flee the scene. A barangay watchman had also testified that he saw the suspect throw a plastic container of lighter fluid in the parish house just before the fire.

But the lawyer said it was natural for anyone to run away from a fire and to carry with him all his belongings. He also doubted the watchman's statement, saying the testimony did not prove anything.

Kayaban added his client is willing to be detained throughout the 15-day period given to government prosecutors to build up their case against the suspect.

The fire department thinks the suspect might have also murdered the priest before setting the house on fire.

Arson division head Chief Insp. Fennimore Jaudian has coordinated with the Western Police District's homicide section to study the murder aspect of the case. Police and fire investigators are set to meet today to compare notes on the case.

Homicide section head Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban said his men would also check out what the fire investigators had uncovered.

According to the death certificate, the priest died of third degree burns and partial suffocation. The postmortem also showed that the wounds on the victim's face could have been caused by falling debris and not by a blow.

Taluban said they have yet to wait for the results of the autopsy on the body, which is being conducted by Dr. Michael Maunaham at the national crime laboratory in Camp Crame.

"If the priest is found to have died before the fire took place, then there was murder," Taluban said. "But if the results of the autopsy confirmed the cause of death, then the case is arson with homicide and it would be thrown back to the fire bureau."

Taluban said the WPD's own crime lab has taken custody of the metal pipe reportedly used to hit the priest. The pipe will be tested for Bayudan's fingerprints.

In an interview a day after the fire, Jaudian said his men could not find a motive for the arson.

Father Villaniel, according to residents, introduced the suspect as his "nephew". Bayudan is taking up several subjects at San Beda College in preparation for a master's degree course, according to his lawyer.

But Kayaban stressed that Villamiel's room, located on the second floor, "could not just have ignited." He said flammable materials might have been poured on the airconditioning unit, which was not plugged, and on a cabinet filled with clothes.

2 hunted for slay of EPD officer

BY AGNES E. DONATO

POLICE are now looking for two suspected drug pushers hired by a Rizal barangay official to kill Insp. German Hepuller, the Eastern Police District officer whose mutilated body was found in Taytay, Rizal on July 28.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Eastern Police District director, has dispatched his men to hunt down Ricardo Cruz and his unnamed cohort in the provinces of Rizal and Quezon.

The two suspects are reportedly in the payroll of a barangay official, said to be a drug dealer operating in Hepuller's neighborhood.

The barangay official allegedly became furious at Hepuller when the police officer started an anti-illegal drugs campaign in their neighborhood.

Hepuller was the president of the Crestaville homeowners association in Taytay.

Police have already invited for questioning William Raymundo, 23; Edgardo Carancho, 33; and Carlo Junio, 25; all of Sitio Bangiad, Barangay San Juan, Taytay. The three men were reportedly the last ones seen with Hepuller just before he disappeared.

Japanese found dead in hotel

BY JEROME ANING

A JAPANESE businessman who had been applying for a Philippine driver's license was found dead inside his hotel room in Ermita, Manila early Thursday evening.

Investigators think Sadao Saito, 61, who was staying at the Santos Pension House on 1540 A. Mabini Street, Ermita, could have died of heart failure as a result of exhaustion in applying for a license. Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the city police's homicide section, said Saito, a native of Saitama, Japan, arrived in the country on July 31.

The following day at 9 a.m., Saito and an unidentified woman went to the Land Transportation Office branch on Escoda Street to apply for a driver's license so he could go around the country in a rented car. The companion introduced Saito to Ronald Gomia, a guard at the LTO, who offered to help the foreigner in his application. Saito made another trip to the LTO about 9 a.m. Thursday to follow up his application but authorities there said he needed to produce more documents.

The foreigner went back to his pension house about 1 p.m. and told the hotel receptionist, Nenita Baay, not to let anyone bother him in his room because he was so tired and sleepy.

Woman hangs self

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

HOUSEWIFE Zaida Tiopingco took her own life Thursday after her husband refused to bring her along to watch a basketball game in Quezon City.

Tiopingco, 27, of Pook Pag-asa, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, hanged herself using a nylon cord inside their house, said PO1 Edwin dela Cruz, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The victim's husband, Melchor, discovered the tragedy about 6 p.m. Thursday when he got home from the basketball game, Dela Cruz said.

Melchor, 26, said his wife wanted to go with him and watch him play basketball earlier that afternoon. But he told her to stay home because it looked like it was going to rain.

He said he did not want her to get wet and catch a cold.

The rain did pour down but Melchor continued to play with his teammates at a nearby basketball court.

But when he got home about 6 p.m., he found the door of their rented apartment was locked.

Melchor said he repeatedly knocked and called his wife but no answer came.

He then went to the apartment's owner and asked for a spare key.

When Melchor opened the door, he was shocked to see his wife hanging from the ceiling with a nylon cord around her neck.

He took her to the East Avenue Medical Center but she died at 5:30 a.m. yesterday, despite doctors' efforts to save her.

Melchor said his wife had been depressed lately, even before she asked to go with him to the basketball game.

The couple had been married for five years but they had no children.

3 nabbed for carnap

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE CENTRAL Police District (CPD) arrested three suspected car thieves who allegedly stole the taxi of the Bureau of Jail Management's chief finance officer in Metro Manila.

Arrested were Jenerito B. Batima, 25; Romanowitz G. Hipolito, 23; Ritchie V. Galman, 29, all residents of Valenzuela, for allegedly stealing Senior Insp. Danilo de la Pena's taxi, a red Toyota Corolla (PYR-995), said Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, CPD director.

The taxi was found eight hours after it was reported stolen about 2 a.m. last July 30 in Caloocan City, police said.

Investigation showed that an unidentified man flagged down the taxi and told the driver to take him to Barangay Bagong Barrio in Caloocan.

When they reached Malolos Street in Bagong Barrio, the passenger asked the driver to give his wristwatch to a woman who was waiting nearby, police said.

The driver agreed, but when he returned to the taxi, police said the suspects were already on board.

The suspects, police said, then drove off in the taxi and left behind the driver.

The driver then reported the incident to the Sangandaan police station and an alarm was sent to all police stations in Metro Manila.

About 10 a.m. of the same day, CPD agent PO1 Jose Hector Garnole saw the taxi cruising along Tandang Sora Avenue and alerted his colleagues.

They managed to catch the suspects who were not able to speed off because of heavy traffic, police said.

The suspects are now in jail, and a bail of P100,000 for their temporary release has been set.

Last call for entries to RM essay competition

TO celebrate "greatness of spirit" in the men and women who have helped shape Asia, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation has launched the Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition 2001.

Open to all bona fide Filipino high school and college students, the competition aims to inculcate "greatness of spirit" in the Filipino youth through the admirable example of the "living Asian heroes" in their midst as embodied by the 223 Ramon Magsaysay awardees since 1958.

Prizes include P100,000 each for the two national grand prize winners, and a personal computer for each of the regional finalists and their schools.

All entries must be original essays written in English with an estimated length of between 500 to 1,000 words.

ZONTA CLUB EDSA

The Zonta Club of Edsa and its Environs represented by president Luz Cornejo received plaques of appreciation from Rev. Fr. Romeo Padillo, rector of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Seminary in Isa-bang, Lucena City, after donating a set of computers and cash for the seminarians. Those who witnessed the occasion were (from left) assistant treasurer Ellen Sevilla, vice president for external affairs Gloria Cabrera, vice president for internal affairs Femie Trinidad, immediate past president Malou Alviar, Msgr. Hernandez, and the seminarians headed by Karl Tolentino.

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LAS PIÑAS Rep. Cynthia Villar visits patients of the Las Piñas District Hospital. In a House of Representatives bill she filed recently, Villar sought the increase of the present 50-bed capacity of the hospital to 250 beds.

Bogus bills hidden in bra

BY TJ BURGONIO

A FEMALE passenger bound for Cagayan de Oro was yesterday held at the old Manila Domestic Airport in Pasay City after wads of bogus peso bills were found inside her brassiere.

Emma Lomangcolob, 38, of Marawi City, was found with 197 pieces of fake P1,000 bills hidden inside her bra while she was being frisked by non-uniformed personnel of the Aviation Security Group (ASG) about 3:15 a.m. yesterday, police said.

"She acted suspiciously," said Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele Jr., ASG chief. "Her bra looked too big for her body. When female agents frisked her they felt something hard around the bra. So they brought her to an isolation room and found the fake bills." Lomangcolob was stopped from boarding the Air Philippines flight for Cagayan de Oro City and was immediately placed under investigation.

She refused to answer investigators' questions on who gave her the fake bills. But she said that she was bringing the money to an ailing relative in the province, Ele said.

Lomangcolob was charged with counterfeiting and possession of fake bank notes before the Pasay City prosecutor's office. An investigation team from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) confirmed that the bills were counterfeit.

Ele said the suspect could be a courier of a syndicate manufacturing fake peso bills.

"If she were not a courier, why would she hide these in her bra?"

While they looked real, the bills were of poor quality, Ele said, noting that they were made of ordinary paper and were printed with a color-copier machine. The fake bills also had watermarks, police said.

Last month, a German was arrested inside a chartered plane at the Davao international airport for possession of $1,250,000 worth of fake US Federal Reserve Notes and gold bullion certificates.

Man sentenced to life term for dope possession

A MANDALUYONG court found a man guilty of possession of illegal drugs two years ago and yesterday sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Judge Edwin Sorongon of the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court Branch 214 also ordered Romeo Encarnacion, 40, to pay a fine of P.5-million.

Court records showed that two members of the Mandaluyong Mayor's Action Command arrested Encarnacion about 6 a.m. on June 28, 1999 and found him in possession of three kilos of marijuana.

Encarnacion's arrest came after police received information that Encarnacion would arrive from Baguio City with several kilos of marijuana.

MAC members Raul Pedro and Julio Valeza told the court that they positioned themselves near Encarnacion's house on Pinagtipunan Street in Barangay Hagdang Bato Itaas and waited for Encarnacion.

When they saw Encarnacion, the arresting officers immediately approached him. But they said they were surprised when Encarnacion ran, leaving behind a violet bag, which contained 3.334 kilos of marijuana.

One of the policemen then took the bag as the other went after Encarnacion and arrested him, they told the court.

Encarnacion pleaded innocent to the charges during the trial and claimed he did not know that the violet bag he was carrying contained marijuana.

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay congratulates T/Sgt. Jose M. Rodriguez Jr. of the Philippine Marines based in Fort Bonifacio who was chosen as one of the Ten Outstanding Soldiers of the Philippines. Binay, a colonel in the Philippine Marines Reserve Command, also gave Rodriguez a cash incentive.

Manila parts without water for 18 hours

RESIDENTS of Masangkay, Bambang, Andalucia, Rizal Avenue, C.M. Recto, City Jail, Telecom Compound and LRC Compound in Sta. Cruz; Estero de la Reina, Estero de Kabulusan, Antipolo, Estero de San Lazaro and C.M. Recto in Tondo; and 7th Avenue, D. Aquino, J. Abad Santos and Barrio Obrero in Caloocan will be waterless for 18 hours starting Wednesday, Aug. 8, from 10 p.m. to 4 p.m. the following day.

Maynilad Water, the West Zone concessionaire, said the water interruption is due to the repair of a defective gate valve at the corner of Jose Abad Santos and Hermosa in Tondo.

Areas that will experience low water pressure or no water during the same period are Lerma, España, P. Noval, Andalucia, Antipolo Creek, Estero de San Lazaro, Estero de Magdalena, C.M. Recto in Sampaloc and Quezon Boulevard, Ongpin, Evangelista, and G. Puyat in Sta. Cruz.

For inquiries, the public may call the Maynilad Water hotline, 1626, for water tankering schedule.

Health secretary launches campaign

HEALTH Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit launched the dengue alert campaign in Valenzuela City on Aug. 1, 2001.

The Valenzuela City health department headed by Mayor Bobbit L. Carlos, MD, joined the secretary in promoting the campaign against dengue in Barangay Marulas.

Carlos encouraged the people of Valenzuela to give importance to cooperation in the community to prevent not just dengue but other diseases. He also stressed that each barangay has the responsibility of protecting the community from any threat to the people's health.

Dayrit discussed the program by giving a talk about the causes and symptoms of dengue and how cleanliness of surroundings can prevent it.

He also joined Carlos in visiting Jacinto Street in Marulas to educate the people about the places where the virus may emanate and the dangers of keeping stagnant water in the surroundings.

Teachers cite Roco

THE QUEZON City Public School Teachers Association has commended Education Secretary Raul S. Roco for his "sincere and determined efforts to rid the Department of Education, Culture and Sports of graft and corruption."

The teachers also asked Roco to press for the full implementation of Republic Act 4670 or the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers.

Eusebio S. San Diego, QCPSTA president, said the Magna Carta has provisions that up to now have not been implemented.

He cited Section 18 of the law, which provides that "teachers' salaries shall, at the very least, keep pace with the rise in the cost of living by the payment of cost-of-living allowance which shall automatically follow the cost-of-living index."

San Diego said the Magna Carta further mandates that the Education secretary "shall recommend to Congress, at least annually, the appropriation of necessary funds for the cost-of-living allowance."

Since RA 4670 was enacted in 1966, not one education secretary has complied with this Constitutional provision, San Diego observed.

Since he assumed office in February 2001, Roco has done much for the teachers, especially when he took action on loan firms that victimize the teachers, and when he held dialogues with teacher organizations, San Diego said.

"No wonder, DECS now enjoys high rating in surveys and has earned an image as a government agency that has nothing to do with corruption," he said.

2 hurt in Taguig robbery

TWO men, including a suspected robber, were hurt in a robbery in the coastal town of Taguig late Thursday evening, police reported yesterday.

Hurt were tricycle driver Antonio Heramis, 49, of Caballero Street in Purok 5, Lower Bicutan; and Tommy Nalang, 30, of Reyes Street in Purok 3, also in Lower Bicutan. Both were brought to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds in the body.

It was also at the PGH emergency room where Nalang was arrested by lawmen after Heramis recognized and identified him as one of the two men who, a few hours earlier, robbed him of his day's earning.

Investigation showed that the incident happened about 9 p.m. along Millare Street in Purok 4, Lower Bicutan while Heramis was driving his tricycle.

PO2 Ehron Balauat said Nalang and a still unidentified man were passengers of Heramis. As his tricycle approached a dimly lighted portion of Millare Street, the two men announced the robbery.

Balauat said that after divesting the victim of his wristwatch and P500, Nalang's unidentified companion pulled out a gun and tried to shoot Heramis but instead hit Nalang. The unidentified gunman then fired again and this time hit Heramis.

Balauat said that after the shooting, the robbers escaped. Heramis was rushed to the PGH followed a few moments later by Nalang.

"They happened to be in beds that were beside each other and the victim recognized the suspect," Balauat said. *Nelson F. Flores*

Youth outreach program

THE Kabalikta ng Pamilyang Pilipino Foundation Inc., together with Novaliches High School and with support from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, launched its project on "Increasing Demand for Adolescent Reproductive Health Services Through Youth Outreach Programs" at the Novaliches High School on July 31.

The program has already started in five other barangays in Quezon City and five schools — UP Diliman, Miriam College, Far Eastern University-FERN, Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA) and National College of Business Administration (NCBA).

It aims to increase the adolescents' knowledge of their bodies to allow them to make more informed decisions and know how and where to gain access to reproductive health services. It seeks to tap community youth organizations, street youth educators and school organizations.

Kabalikat is an NGO set up in 1979 with family planning as its primary concern. It eventually evolved into an organization undertaking programs geared towards specific segments of the Filipino family.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CATS & DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
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ODEON	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ODEON-2	JURASSIC PARK 3
ROBEN	AMORSEKO
TANDEM-1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-2	HILIG NG KATAWAN
TIMES	MUMMY RETURN / ME, MYSELF & IRENE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RED DIARIES
QUEZON-1	PARU PARONG LIGAW
REMAR	KISS OF THE DRAGON
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
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MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	TOM CATS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-12	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-14	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-15	RED DIARIES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
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CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE
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(LAS PIÑAS)	
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Gang member shot dead

AGENTS of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) shot dead an unidentified member of the Batang City Jail (BCJ) gang after he and two other men allegedly held up an FX taxi late Thursday night in Quezon City.

Police said the three unidentified suspects robbed driver Alfredo Tolentino along Araneta Avenue and commandeered his FX taxi (PXL-179) before the CIDG members from Camp Crame caught up with them and engaged them in a shootout.

Police described the lone fatality as 25-30 years old, 5-foot-1, fair-complexioned, long haired, and wearing a black shirt and short pants with polka dots.

The suspect bore several bullet wounds in the head and the chest, police added.

Tolentino told investigators that the three men boarded his taxi in front of Isetan department store in Cubao. He was then driving to Divisoria.

Minutes later, the trio announced the holdup and took his earnings, he said. They told him to get off the taxi before they drove away with it.

Tolentino reported the holdup to the CPD, which sent a metro-wide alarm to other police districts.

Philip C. Tubeza

LRTA offers site for vendors

BY JEROME ANING

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority has offered to construct a temporary building for the stall owners and vendors of the Sampaloc public market, which is set to be demolished to make way for a station of the LRT II.

Tina Testa, adviser of the Bagong Samahan ng mga Manininda sa Sampaloc Market Inc., said she spoke on Thursday with the LRT II project manager, Enrico Garcia, who told her the LRTA would build the temporary market for the vendors.

Testa said the LRT project has been considerably delayed because the old market cannot be demolished until the relocation site for the vendors is constructed.

But she told the INQUIRER that she wants to know first how long it would take to build the permanent market.

"I won't recommend the transfer of the vendors to the temporary site without knowing when the permanent one will be finished," Testa added.

"For all we know, the construction of the permanent one could take years. The vendors want their new market soon."

She said Enrico proposed that the cost of building the temporary site be deducted from the amount the LRTA has yet to pay the Manila City Hall after the LRTA bought the old market lot in June 2000.

According to an agreement signed in September 1999, the City Hall cannot demolish the vendors' stalls until a relocation site has been found for them.

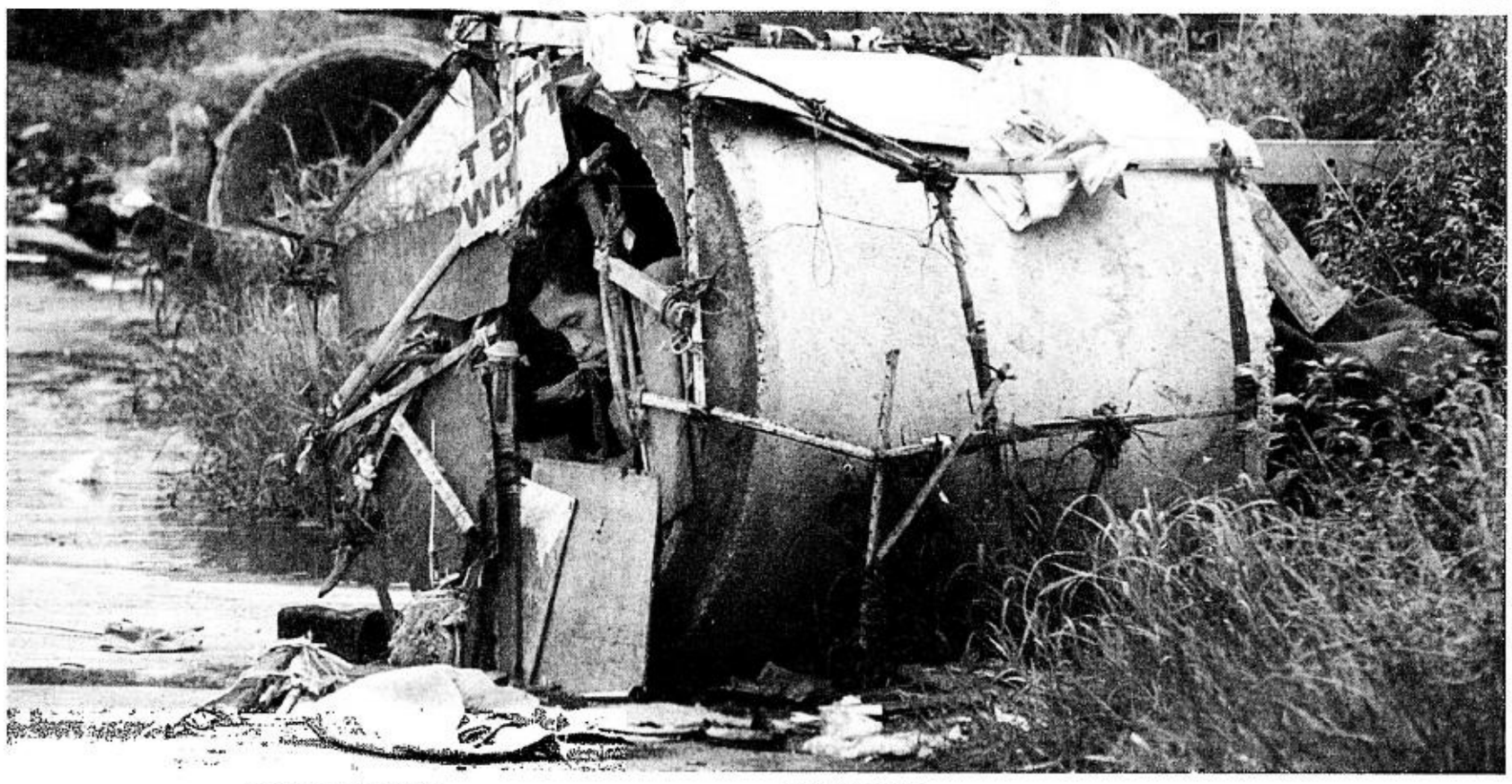
The City Hall has set aside a piece of land at the corner of Legarda and Bustillos streets, just across the old market, but it has yet to erect a building that would temporary house the vendors while the permanent market is being constructed.

The city sold the old market lot for P151 million. The deed of sale provided that the LRTA would initially pay the city government P73 million, or 40 percent of the replacement cost of the building plus 50 percent of the cost of the land.

Testa said that when the P73 million was received by Mayor Lito Atienza, the vendors had hoped he would soon be building their new market. This, however, did not happen, she said.

The City Hall has yet to receive P78 million more from the sale.

Testa said she has told Enrico to arrange a meeting between LRTA and city officials, as well as BSMSMI members, to discuss his offer.



STONE HOUSE

EDWIN BACASMAS

For this unidentified man, home is a concrete pipe with a makeshift entrance along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. For hundreds of others in Metro Manila, home, even a semblance of it, does not exist and they make do with the bare ground.

Workshop on teacher training

THE CENTER for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines, (CLTS) an affiliate of the International Learning Styles Network based at St. John's University in New York, will hold its fifth teacher-training workshop on "The HI CLASS Teacher" on Aug. 6-7 at the YMCA International Hostel at the back of SM Manila and Manila City Hall.

Registration is still open at 374-4967 or 936-6790.

The two-day workshop will also feature the Tanghalang Henyo Foundation Theatre Arts, integrating mime, puppetry and song writing in classroom activities.

The six modules in the workshop will cover lesson plan preparation, capturing students' attention, sustaining students' attention, making the lesson stick, "brainobics," and memory and assessment.

The HI CLASS seminar course will give educators the opportunity to come up with creative and innovative ways to improve their teaching styles and methodologies.

Foreigners riot in BI jail

BY ALCUIN PAPA

ABOUT 12 foreigners, mostly Africans, detained at the Bureau of Immigration jail in Bicutan, Taguig rioted on Thursday to protest their living conditions.

Canadian Raymond Jackson told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the Africans, mostly Nigerians, were frustrated with their detention and the poor living conditions in the center.

"The conditions here are so bad and we have been denied medical attention," Jackson said. "Not only that, the Africans as well as the other foreigners feel we have been unjustly detained."

He said the Nigerians held a noise barrage and banged pots and pans. They also started to break furnishings and jail windows.

No one was reported injured in the riot.

Jackson said the inmates also refused to eat.

The foreigners had earlier complained of lack of due process, illegal detention, illegal arrest, and extortion by immigration officials. They also complained about the poor living conditions in the jail and lack of medical attention.

About 200 inmates of different nationalities are being held in the BI detention center. Some of them have been languishing there for as long as five years.

Jackson appealed to immigration officials to improve the living conditions in the jail and to give them proper medical care.

"It would also help if they (immigration officials) would facilitate our speedy release," Jackson said.

He said some of them were actually investors in the country and were only falsely arrested or implicated in various crimes by their local business rivals.

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KISS OF THE DRAGON - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P 13 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10	MOULIN ROUGE - R 18 11:00, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
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ASIAN DRAGON UNLEASHED ONCE MORE

JET LI, top Asian box-office superstar, teams-up with producer Luc Besson (director of "The Fifth Element") and action choreographer Cory Yuen in an exciting slick, action thriller loaded with ferocious two-fisted, fleet-footed fight scenes that rank with the classic street fighting of Bruce Lee's "Enter the Dragon" and Jet Li's own "Fist of Legend".

In an original story by Jet Li himself, he plays Liu Jiuan, a Chinese police officer trapped in a deadly conspiracy while on an assignment in Paris, who comes to the aid of Jessica (Bridget Fonda), an American forced into prostitution by a villainous cop.

Kiss fear goodbye. Witness the skill, the speed and the power of Jet Li in KISS OF THE DRAGON.

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Free healing

THE LORD Jesus Christ Miracle Center holds free healing sessions daily, starting Aug. 5, 10 a.m., at No. 6 Kamuning Road corner Luis Siangho St., Quezon City (above Halili Drug and Gloriani Clinic).

Evangelist Mercy Halili Gloriani and Rev. Julia Halili-Salvan pray for the sick.

Among the sicknesses healed are cataract, glaucoma, deafness, dumbness, diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer, asthma, hypertension, fracture, rheumatism, arthritis, anemia, nervous breakdown, appendicitis, hemorrhoid, goiter, cysts, nasal polyp and epilepsy.

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Why do women find this man so irresistable?

THE TAO OF STEVE

Dex (Donal Logue) is a lovable kindergarten teacher who has extraordinary success with women, and a sexual appetite to match. Women go crazy for him, and men admire his finely-tuned romantic philosophy. The only woman who is not wooed by his charms is Syd (Greer Goodman), an old college friend. THE TAO OF STEVE is a light and spunky romantic comedy directed by Jennifer Goodman. The film, and Logue's role in it, got the Outstanding Performance Special Jury Prize at Sundance 2000.

"ONE OF THE MOST PLEASURABLE FILMS AT SUNDANCE & ONE OF THE MOST DISARMING ROMANTIC COMEDIES I'VE SEEN IN YEARS."
-Glenn Kenny, PREMIERE

"HILARIOUS & HEARTFELT! DONAL LOGUE'S KNOCKOUT PERFORMANCE SHOULD MAKE HIM A STAR."
-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"A WONDERFULLY WITTY ROMANTIC COMEDY THAT HAS BOTH CRITICS & AUDIENCES RAVING!"
-JonathanForeman, NEW YORK POST

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

Schneider, 'ANIMAL': Hayop sa katatawanan

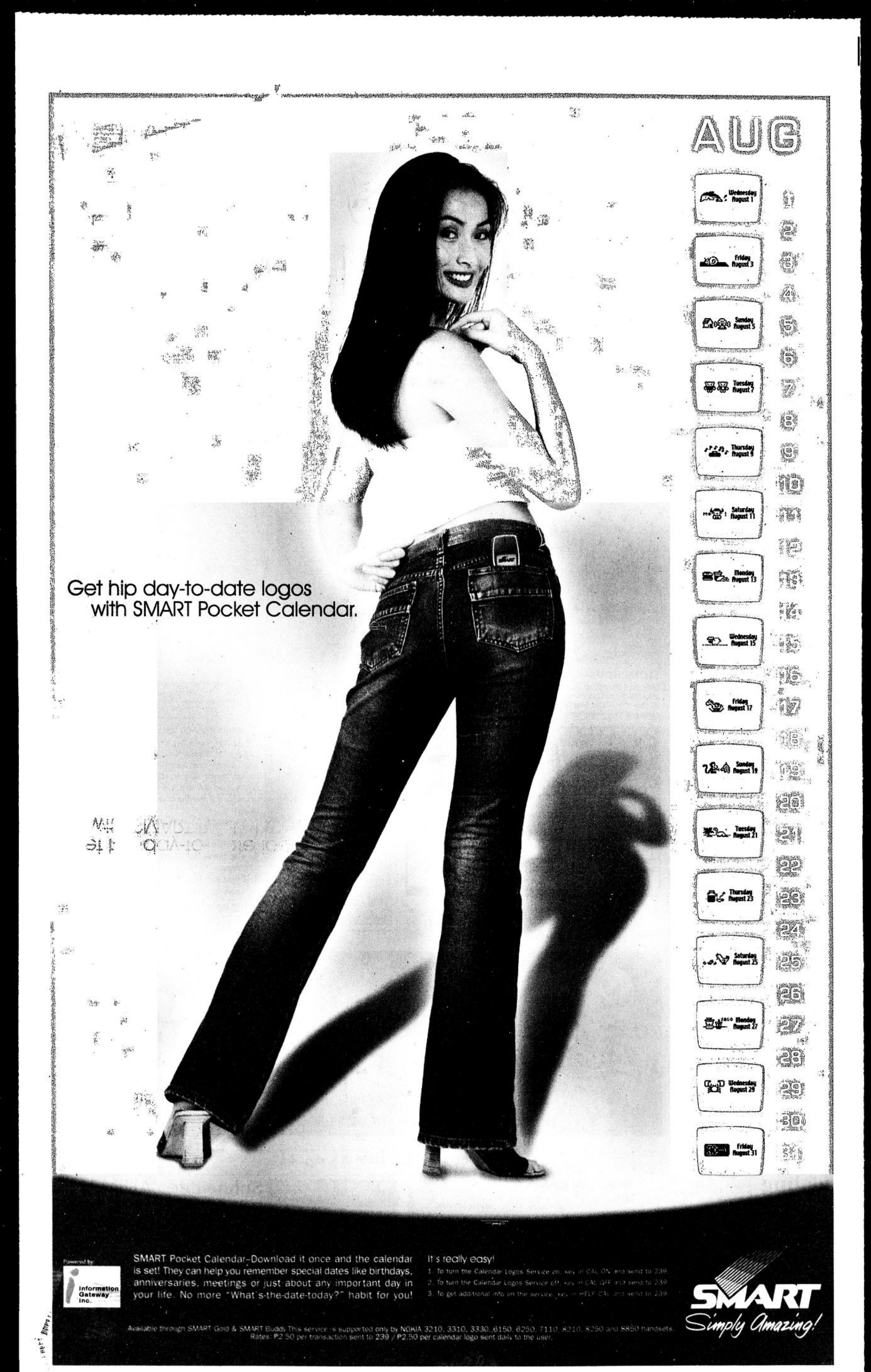
Rob Schneider, lovable Filipino star of the comedy hit DEUCE BIGALOW MALE GIGOLO is back, funnier than ever in Columbia Pictures' THE ANIMAL.

As Marvin Mange, he has the strength of a lion, the agility of a chimpanzee and the affections of... a goat?

Thanks to a life-saving experimental surgery that fuses his body with animal parts, Marvin's dreams of becoming a cop like his dad come true. Armed with new bulging muscles and a keen sense of smell, he even becomes a police hero, as he saves a drowning boy and sniffs out drug smugglers at the airport.

But complications arise when he starts falling for Rianna (Colleen Haskell, *Survivor*), an animal shelter volunteer. Will he finally be able to control his beastly ways with the woman he loves?

OPENS AUG. 8!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Filipinos poorer due to crisis–NSCB

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

TWO out of every five Filipino families are now living in poverty, the National Statistical Coordination Board has reported.

In a news statement, the NSCB yesterday said the country's poverty incidence—the proportion of families with an income below the poverty line—rose from 31.8 percent in 1997 to 34.2 percent last year.

"In proportion to the population," it said, "poverty incidence rose from 36.8 percent in 1997 to 40 percent in 2000."

The NSCB said the annual per capita poverty threshold—the minimum income an individual must make in a year to meet his or her basic needs—reached P13,916 last year from P11,319 in 1997. This meant a family of six should have an income of at least P6,958 a month to stay above the poverty line.

Some 5.2 million families in the country were living below the poverty line in 2000, according to the NSCB. It said 704,270 families slid below the poverty line from 1997's figure.

In urban areas like Metro Manila and Cebu City, one out of every five families—or a total of 1.5 million families—are living below the poverty line, according to the NSCB. Poverty incidence in urban areas rose to 20.4 percent in 2000 from 17.9 percent in 1997, it said.

In rural areas, one in two families are living in poverty. The NSCB said poverty incidence in rural areas rose from 44.4 percent in 1997 to 47.4 percent in 2000.

A senior NSCB official, who asked not to be named, said the country's poverty incidence went up largely as a result of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

The crisis lobbed off nearly half the peso's value against the US dollar, creating inflationary pressures that jacked up the prices of basic commodities without a commensurate increase in salaries.

Apart from the regional currency crisis, a Muslim secessionist war also shoved the country's poverty incidence upward, particularly in Mindanao, the NSCB official told the INQUIRER.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had the highest poverty incidence—seven out of every 10 families in the region are living in poverty—followed by the Bicol region, with a poverty incidence of 56.3 percent and Central Mindanao, 50.9 percent.

The poverty incidence in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Northern Mindanao and the Cordillera Autonomous Region fell, the NSCB reported.

Meanwhile, the subsistence (food) threshold increased from P7,710 in 1997 to P9,183 in 2000, up by 19 percent during the period.

Subsistence incidence or the proportion of families with income below the food threshold stood at 16.8 percent in 2000, up by 0.6 percentage point than in 1997. In 2000, for instance, there were 2.6 million families with income below the food threshold, up by 12 percent than in 1997.

In urban areas, subsistence incidence slightly increased from 7.0 in 1987 to 7.3 in 2000. In the rural areas, it inched from 24.6 percent in 1996 to 25.9 percent in 2000.

The ARMM posted the highest increase in subsistence incidence at 10.4 percentage points among the regions including NCR. Subsistence incidence in NCR doubled from 0.8 percent in 1997 to 1.6 percent in 2000.

Gov't to seek $400-M loan from ADB

THE MACAPAGAL administration is planning to ask the Asian Development Bank for a $400-million program loan to replace the failed banking sector reform loan.

Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong said the government would explore the possibility of getting the entire $400-million program loan from the ADB instead of the World Bank, which was said to be willing to lend only $200 million to the Philippines.

Early this week, Amatong told reporters that the World Bank was allocating $200 million for a new program loan with the Philippine government to be anchored on tax administration reforms.

The $200-million loan, to be called a public finance management reform, was aimed to replace the $400-million banking sector reform loan that the World Bank and the government had terminated early this year.

Amatong said the government was planning to negotiate for a similar program loan from ADB if talks with the World Bank for a fresh loan would not materialize.

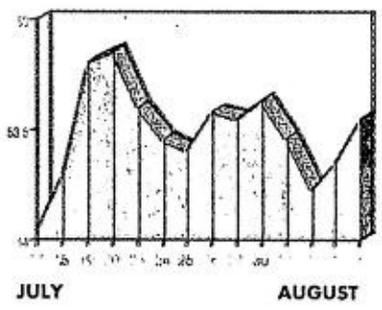
She said that a counterpart funding from other multilateral agencies could increase the size of the World Bank loan.

Amatong said negotiations with the World Bank for the new loan was scheduled to start this month.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱53.450 = $1

As of 5 p.m., August 3, 2001

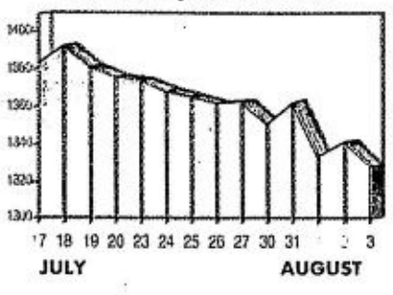
¥123.84 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 123.84 as of 5 p.m., August 3, 2001

GOLD: $268.40/268.90 per ounce Hong Kong, August 3, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares down

SHARES closed at a fresh nine-month low yesterday primarily due to selling on selected blue chips led by phone heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Traders said most of the sellers were foreign brokerage houses, with PLDT and Manila Electric Co.'s B shares topping their list of stocks to unload.

The Philippine main index slid 13.39 points, or 1 percent, to end at 1,328.17 points, the lowest closing level since Oct. 31 last year.

For the week, the index lost 2.58 percent, or 35.17 points. A local fund manager said the market's downward bias was likely to be sustained in the near-term with the lack of positive news to push share prices higher.

The main index's immediate support was pegged at 1,300, with major support at 1,270 to 1,280. *Reuters*

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Buy and seal

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SO Shoemart's original *Tatang*, Henry Sy Sr., managed to keep his balls, este, confidence. The man is still investing truckloads of money.

For instance, he bought a good portion of a little property called Tagaytay Highlands. Yes, it's that high-class golf resort!

It is said to be the favorite getaway of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. There, he used to spend weekends with . . . well, I can't say whom with.

Alright, only with a few of his trusted Cabinet members! Nobody else? Really, Madam Senator, I don't know anything!

Anyway, Tatang's move raised eyebrows in business up there to the depleted ozone layer. For what's with this great grand daddy of mega super malls?

He acquired such a huge expensive asset, just when real estate was down? Everybody was already feeling sorry for himself. And there was Tatang, still confident.

He merrily bought a whole golf resort on top of putting money into more gigantic malls, which were sprouting like mushrooms all over the place. It was not just a hobby.

* * *

THIS same man started with a small shoe store in Carriedo Street in Manila. I mean, his is as good a track record in business as any.

Thus, you can bet your unsweetened ugly potatoes that he saw or knew something that we didn't or couldn't. That's why he is Henry Sy and we are not.

These days, in fact, they say that prospects in business are so bad, a lot of bankers and top executives simply spend weekends out of town.

Perhaps they want to relax and play golf, or whatever it is they usually play with, or play around with, when they leave the city.

In bad times, apparently, the bigshots have very little business to do in the city. See, on that score alone, it's clear Tatang saw business opportunity.

In other words, he could see cash where others see useless cogon. For where do the bankers and the executives go? Right you are, to Tagaytay Highlands!

* * *

ON the other hand, Geronimo Velasco sold out of Republic Glass to his Japanese partner. Remember him? He was the energy secretary during the entire Marcos dictatorship.

The company is said to be Velasco's prized possession. Thus, according to doomsayers in business, his sellout should mean something to business.

For one, it may indicate the level of confidence in the economy. You know—it is already crawling somewhere down there with the live baits.

Well, that's one way of looking at it. Famous people are even getting out of the country. They think there is no future here. So they'd rather wait on tables in Canada.

But if there's a seller, there must be a buyer. Velasco sold out to his Japanese partner, the Asahi group, right? They are the buyer.

Yes, they invested more money here. For the sake of those semi-literate people in the Senate, I must explain that the Japanese company spent money here.

Why do you think the Japanese did that? *Wala lang?* Don't tell me that they had no choice, because Velasco threatened to stop their daily supply of sushi.

The guy already lost his political clout in 1986. Alright, granted, even during the time of Tita Cory, the PCGG never touched Velasco.

The PCGG did not even touch just the dirt in the nail of the little finger of Velasco, despite all the nasty things being said about him then about oil deals.

Let's just say that Velasco probably sold out, because he did not have management control of the company, anyway.

I mean, unlike other tycoons, he had no reason to keep his investment in the glass firm. Maybe he just wants to enjoy now the fruits of his martial rule labor.

* * *

BASED on reports, San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco is not yet done buying big companies left and right. Coca-Cola. Purefoods. Cosmos. Congress. Este, *hindi naman.*

San Miguel can buy things on sight, like a drunken sailor on port leave after winning all the paychecks of his shipmates in a loaded dice game, because it is loaded.

In the past three years, San Miguel profits hopped, skipped and jumped, and is still going up. It is immuned to bad times. Bad times mean 10 percent growth in profits.

Still on the buying binge, San Miguel was reported to be eyeing, this time, none other than Lucio Tan's liquor maker Tanduay. Hmm.

Tanduay, by the way, also owns a basketball team in the PBA. San Miguel has its own team, plus the team of its subsidiary, Ginebra. It just bought Purefoods, which also has a PBA team, and is buying Cosmos, which has the Pop Cola team. Now Tanduay!

So what design does San Miguel have for the professional league PBA? For it to become San Miguel's inter-department league?

* * *

THE POINT is, San Miguel is able to buy and seal the deals with other big companies with well-known brands, not because it wants to turn the PBA into a backyard tournament.

In this regard, if we cannot even settle the row in the Basketball Association of the Philippines, how can we hope to fix bigger things like . . . well, our country?

Anyway, I don't think that Lucio Tan wants to sell out of Tanduay. It just did an IPO. Well, it was done rather silently, without the usual fireworks.

But do you think the poor taipan, said to be the richest man in the Philippines, will sell Tanduay because he needs the money? What for?

Lucio Tan may have lost his daily allowance in Philippine Airlines, plus some loose change in Philippine National Bank. But he is not becoming homeless tomorrow.

Tanduay is a listed firm. If the day should ever come when Lucio Tan would need money in Tanduay, he can raise it through the stock market.

Assuming, of course, this cute administration can somehow resurrect the market. It's wistful thinking, I know!

St. Luke's to build ₱4.5-B hospital in Global City

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

ST. LUKE'S Medical Center and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. yesterday signed an agreement for the development and operation of a P4.5-billion hospital in the Bonifacio Global City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who witnessed the signing at the Heroes Hall in Malacañang, lauded the plan which, she said, would help the government pursue its objective of extending medical services to the people.

Ms Macapagal also said her administration was planning to expand the coverage of medical insurance in the country and encourage the establishment of more private hospitals in the country.

The agreement provides for a 50-year lease, renewable for another 25 years, over a 1.6-hectare block at the Bonifacio Global City on which SLMC will build the new medical center. The facility will house a 500-room, state-of-the-art tertiary hospital with offices for 300 physicians.

The President welcomed this private sector initiative saying the government was cash-strapped and could not put up more public hospitals.

Instead, Ms Macapagal said she wanted her administration to focus on expanding the coverage of health insurance to include members of the urban poor.

She said this would enable the poor to avail themselves of the services provided by private hospitals.

The government, Ms Macapagal said, supports the undertaking of the two firms but added that it could provide this project not government funds but "moral support."

Ms Macapagal also said that her administration plans to enroll half-a-million people from the ranks of the urban poor in health insurance programs.

The agreement was signed by SLMC president and CEO Jose F. G. Ledesma and FBDC president and CEO Ricardo S. Pascua. Officials of both groups said the agreement supported the President's call in her recent State of the Nation Address for the private sector to investment boldly again in the Philippines.

While the planning and design phase of the project has already started, actual construction of the hospital is expected to commence in the third quarter next year. The hospital is expected to start operations in 2005.

LMC's Global City operations will house a Heart Institute, Cancer Institute, Institute for Neurosciences and other disciplines of medical science.

Bayantel expanding data services

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc. plans to invest P1 billion to P1.5 billion yearly in the next few years to expand its data services.

"For the next three to five years, we project that data services will contribute the majority of our revenues, so we need to develop this line now," BayanTel chief finance officer Gary Olivar said in an interview.

He said that data services had been accounting for only 0.5 percent of BayanTel's total revenues so far, but "Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) margin and growth rate are higher in data."

BayanTel recently launched its digital subscriber line (DSL) service. This forms part of the P1-billion investment that the company earmarked last year for the expansion of its integrated data services.

"We also earmarked P1 billion for data this year, but we have to be careful because our creditors are watching us," Olivar said.

He added that BayanTel has to expand its market and venture into other lines of service, especially data, because traditional voice is not going to be much of a revenue churner in the coming months.

"Prices for traditional voice, local or international have been going down, so we have very limited options there. Data is the way to go, he said.

BayanTel is currently working on the restructuring of its over $500 million worth of debts, consisting of bank debts and bonds.

For further expansion of services, the Lopez-owned company is looking at foreign investors to help shoulder the cost.

"Additional equity would be helpful. This could be in the form of technology or equity, depending on what the investors would be willing to give. Discussions are going on all the time," Olivar said.

Additional capital expenditures for landlines will also be allotted, but only for maintenance purposes as BayanTel has already fulfilled its landline obligation to the National Telecommunications Commission.

BayanTel currently has over 500,000 installed landlines but only half of which were subscribed.

IT firm to invest ₱400M in call center business

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

AN UPSTART Filipino information technology company is investing P400 million to provide Internet and call center services to local and foreign corporations.

C-Quadrant Corp. has been granted pioneer incentives by the Board of Investments for its project to provide clients with innovative, effective and integrated electronic commerce and call center services.

C-Quadrant is planning to initially provide call service products such as handling of phone inquires and order taking for fast-food companies. It is also aiming to move to developing Web integration systems, multimedia messaging manager, corporate virtual private networks, interactive voice response systems, and integrated agent-supervisor-administrator workstations.

The firm is expected to hire 1,642 employees at its office at the Jacinta Building along Edsa, Guadalupe in Makati City. The project is expected to hand 90.528 local transactions and 2.02-million hours for foreign clients.

The project will be financed mainly through equity contributions from C-Quadrant's major stockholders Carmen Sarina, Augusto Jose Y. Arreza, Zenaida C. Arles, Gary B. Olivar, and Janinne Cynthia Pablo Mendoza.

The Philippines has become a leading provider of call center services to foreign corporations seeking to get third party providers for these services because of the country's large pool of skilled and English-speaking labor.

Outsourcing provides substantial cost benefits to companies as well as it allows them to focus their resources on the core business.

The BOI has been getting an increasing number of project proposals for IT projects in the country since it started giving fiscal perks to this sector two years ago. Based on its rules, an IT firm could get pioneer incentives as long as it would provide new and untried technology; have substantial venture capital; introduce major innovation in software development; and cost at least P100 million.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF AGDANGAN (Quezon), INC.

1. Starting August 7, 2001, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Rural Bank of Agdangan (Quezon), Inc.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), Monday thru Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors:

Rural Bank of Agdangan Office/Branch	Payoff Site	Servicing Dates
Quezon, Head Office	RB Agdangan, Inc. - H.O. Sampayo St., Agdangan Quezon	Aug. 7 to Sept. 3, 2001
General Mariano Alvarez (GMA)	RB Agdangan, Inc. - GMA C1K, Lot 1, Blk 3, San Gabriel GMA Cavite	Aug. 7 to Sept. 3, 2001
Mendez	RB Agdangan, Inc. - Mendez Diamado St., Asis Mendez, Cavite	Aug. 7 to Aug. 22, 2001

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Agdangan (Quezon), Inc. is on November 6, 2002. After November 6, 2002, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.

DISCLOSURES

MABUHAY Vinyl Corp. declared a P0.30-per-share cash dividend for stockholders of record as of Aug. 16, payable on or before Aug. 31.

* * *

IMPERIAL Resources Inc. disclosed that **Philippine Cyber College** signed a partnership agreement with **Microsoft,** making the college a Microsoft Office user specialist integration partner and authorized testing center.

* * *

ELECTED to the board of **ATN Holdings Inc.** were Arsenio Ng, Mario Mina, Chee Choong Cheah, Jose Corpuz, Hilario Ng, Hyland Si, Yu Ting Guan, Patrick Caolle, Bonifacio Choa, Peter Medalla and Roberto Abaya.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Island Information and Technology Inc.** were Chiu Huang a.k.a. James Shih, Andres Lao Sr., Maryflor Racimo, Roman Pacia Jr., Andres Lao Jr., Serafin Linda, Alfonso Lao, Marilou Faustino and Elisa Shih.

* * *

SAN MIGUEL Corp. reported an increase in consolidated sales of 35 percent or P57.3 billion following sales revenue gains of 18 percent in the food business, 6 percent in beverage and 5 percent in packaging.

* * *

FAR Eastern University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 25 at 3 p.m. at the Archives Hall, 3rd Floor, Administration Bldg., FEU, Sampaloc, Manila. Record date is on June 30.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, Aug. 3, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66	66.5	66	66	27,200
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	1,870
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35	35	35	5,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	210	206	210	21,260
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	45.5	46.5	431,400
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.5	19	19.5	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	244	240	244	280
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1630	1610	1630	2,820
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1315	1315	1305	1310	3,710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38	38	38	38	9,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	660	650	660	3,750
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	1,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	14,150,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.9	11,000
Piltel	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	290,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	640	640	600	610	170,620
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.035	0.036	0.033	0.035	151,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	35	35	35	35	19,300
Manila Electric Co. B	42	42	41	41.5	944,400
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.84	1,137,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.1	2.12	2.06	2.06	2,311,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	130,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	380,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	1,794,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	16,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27	28.5	27	28.5	9,300
RFM Corp.	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	9,677,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	108,100
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	55.5	54.5	55	148,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	10,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6	535,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.14	1.06	1.12	2,910,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	139,000,000
Anglo Phil. Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	300,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	170,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.78	1,516,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	110,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.86	0.86	280,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	244,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	151,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	5,060,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	570,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	480,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	720,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	25,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	310,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	2,410,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.9	1	0.9	0.95	720,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	15	14.25	15	11,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	1,360,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.49	260,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38.5	39	38.5	38.5	133,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	10,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	19,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.019	0.019	0.017	0.018	323,100,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	21,000
Far Eastern University	380	380	375	375	660
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.85	5,572,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	110,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,000,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	130,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	661,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	340,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	1,341,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.047	0.05	0.046	0.05	36,800,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	300,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	7,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	630,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	2,800,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	33,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	6,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	501,840	37,441,460.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	666,466,430	259,524,020.00
PRO	9,878,000	37,242,470.00
Mining	48,030,000	3,309,400.00
OIL	41,710,000	751,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	766,610,270	338,318,790.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	552.31	DOWN 0.52
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,882.17	DOWN 29.16
PRO	502.36	UP 9.94
Mining	1,288.06	UP 6.51
OIL	1.77	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	822.02	UP 0.84
Composite	1,328.17	DOWN 13.39

NO. OF ADVANCES: 27; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 97; NO. OF TRADES: 2,285

CURRENCIES

Aug. 3, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.130966	1.000000	53.6670
Japan	Yen	0.009150	0.008090	0.4342
United Kingdom	Pound	1.620448	1.432800	76.8941
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145010	0.128218	6.8811
Switzerland	Franc	0.661771	0.585138	31.4026
Canada	Dollar	0.737170	0.651806	34.9805
Singapore	Dollar	0.635553	0.561956	30.1585
Australia	Dollar	3.000069	2.652661	142.3604
Bahrain	Dinar	3.000069	2.652661	142.3604
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301566	0.266645	14.3100
Brunei	Dollar	0.625361	0.552944	29.6748
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000104	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024796	0.021925	1.1766
UAE	Dirham	0.307997	0.272331	14.6152
Korea	Won	0.000884	0.000782	0.0420
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.884200	47.4524
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.452084	24.2620
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134795	7.2340
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.401232	21.5329
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.064257	3.4485
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021919	1.1763
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000457	0.0245
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148712	7.9809
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00441	0.2367
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005314	0.2852
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021919	1.1763
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.122702	60.2520

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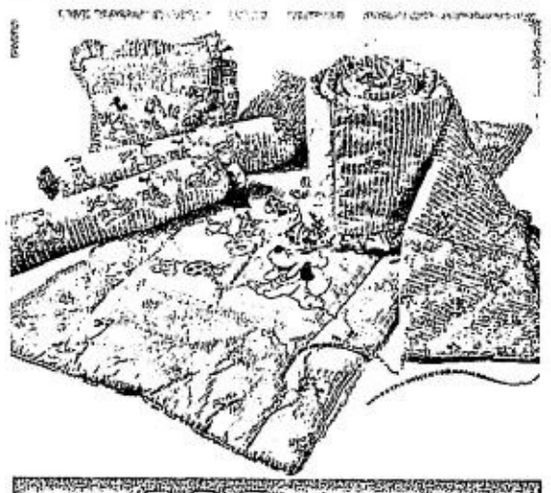

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Disney Babies Crib-in-a-Bag, Baby Co. (Bacoor only)

sale 1,995 reg. 3,995

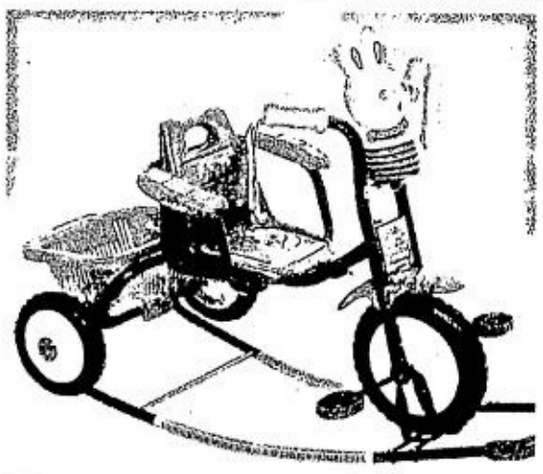
save 50%
Shoe Rack, HomeWorld. (North Edsa only)

sale 149.75 reg. 299.75

save 50%
Checkered Blouses, Girls Teens' Wear Dept.

sale 424.75 reg. 849.75

save 50%
Barney Trolley Bags, Character Shop



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Costumed Stuffed Toys, Children's Accessories Dept.

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sale 499.75 reg. 999.75

save 50%
Tuscany Trolleys, Luggage Dept. (Bacoor only)

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Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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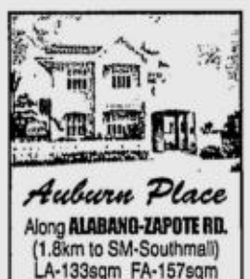
LAS PINAS



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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

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MAKATI

10 MINS. FRM AYALA ZOBEL ROXAS MAKATI BNew/4sty/3BR/3TB/grge P3.05M up 8903461 loc 34

3BR3TB Condo Magallanes Tel. 8317881/8311704

MANILA

LUXOR Condo Rdy 4 occupancy 4 sale/rent 2619 Enrique St. Malate 8991531/35

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Rushl Pioneer Highlands 2br 3.8M DBO09178143792

Wack² Mansion, Studio, Furn w/Pkrg P1.5M 633 7601-03

PASIG

235 FA 3BR Renaissance 3 Cor. Unit Raquel 634-1212

RUSH! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

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Comp amnts RFO nr UP NCBA hosp mkt 50Tldp 12-30T/ no dwn 3yrs 0%w/ cbnts rgehood drsr •MOVERS DEVT & MKTG• 4487133 /4210734/4211350

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APT for Rent T-5629695

MANILA

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MANDALUYONG

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HOUSE

LAS PINAS

S'dlerii big nice 8004884

MANILA

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International Service Company wants

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- Very good career opportunities
- Female candidates preferred
- New building office, (Ortigas Center)

Requirements: Resumé, Copy of CPA Licensure Exam result, 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your email address if applicable), a cut out copy of this ad.

Send requirements to: The Personnel Officer, PO Box #14233, Ortigas Center Post Office, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
You may also email requirements to rmigaz@itextron.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
FISH POND TECHNICIAN / MANAGER

Qualifications:
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOAQUIN M. CARRILLO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc#17 Page#05 Book#XVI Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Romeo De Chavez.
(PDI July 28 Aug. 4, & 11 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of stock certificate #88012044, 30 shares dated July 25, 1988 issued by San Miguel Corp. to **Ms. LORNA A. ABANTO** If no contest is presented, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-July28,Aug.4&11,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 1

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 01-007 (PB)

The Generation Company 1 (GENCO 1), with office at NPC Old Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, invites interested NPC accredited suppliers to bid on the items listed below. The opening will be conducted on **August 17 & 20, 2001** at 10:00 AM, 1st floor, Bidding Room. Price quotation in Philippine Peso is preferred.

DATE OF BIDDING — AUGUST 17, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
0107-013	8 sets Guide Roller, Ø700 & 500 mm, JIS G5121 SCS16 & SCS1, heat treated, PN 54900-0131-6 & 54900-0160-A and 240 pcs. Stopper, t3, SUS 316L, PN 54900-0131-33, S/P for Chain Roller Assembly of SSC, Manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries or equivalent
0107-014	507 pcs., Heating Element, silicone carbide, Work Tube and Ash Cone Refractory Base, composed of a mixture of equal parts by weight of kaolin and alumina for Carbolite Coal Ash Fusion Furnace Model 702
0107-023	150 kgs. , Wear Resistant Grain Epoxy, a general purpose compound for trowelling a thin coating onto horizontal, vertical and overhead surfaces
0107-027	1 lot, S/P for Booster Relay, Model 1L-100-02, Max. Supply Press. 9.9 kg/cm², Max. Inlet & Outlet Press. 7 kg/cm², SMC Brand, consisting of 16 items
0107-028	1 lot, Tanguile Lumber, Ordinary Plywood, Common Wire & Finishing Nail, GI Plain Sheet, Vulcaseal, Fittings, GI Pipe, Tee, Screen Aluminum, Wood Glue and Portland Cement
0107-029	2 pcs., Air Con Compressor, 7.5 & 10 HP, R-22, Cooling Capacity 90,000 & 119,000 Btu/hr., Power Source 3 Phase, 440 V, 60 Hz
0107-036-TES	10 rolls Wire Ropes, steel of various sizes and 10 pcs. Cable Clip for 11 mm wire rope
0107-037-TES	10 pcs., Spare Electronic Cards of Boiler Feed Pump Turbine Control System and Safeties, Manufactured by Alstom, consisting of 7 items
0107-038-TES	16 pcs., S/P for Clarifier Agitator, Type HRB, size 18'-0" dia. x 12'-0" SWD with W12 CR Drive, Rake Drive Motor HP 0.5, RPM 1800, Turbine Drive Motor HP 0.5, RPM 900 Drive Assy. Dwg. No. 000737, Manufactured by Aquatech International Corp., consisting of 8 items
0107-039	1 lot, Various Stainless Steel Pipes and Fittings, consisting of 24 items
0107-046	18 pcs., Weir-Type Diaphragm, Model ITT DIA-FLO, Elastomer Diaphragms, Material Ethylene Propylene (EPDMM), for chemicals, acids, hi-temp abrasives, Temp. -34 to 149°C of various sizes, Manufactured by ITT Engineered Valves
0107-047	1 lot, Auxiliary Switch, PN 5P9C01155P003, Closing/Trip Coil, PN 4C9C033 G001 DC125V and DC Geared Motor (with gear box), PN 5P9C0106 P003 DC125V , S/P for Toshiba 460 V Air Circuit Breaker, Manufactured by Toshiba Corporation

DATE OF BIDDING — AUGUST 20, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
0007-005	3 units, Desktop Computer, Intel Pentium III 800 MHz or AMD Athlon 1 GHz (min.) and CAD/CAE Workstation, Intel Pentium III 1 GHz or AMD Athlon/Thunderbird 1.1 GHz (min.)
0101-031	8 units, Intel Pentium III, 6650 MHz (min.), 128 MB SDRAM, HDD min. 10.2 GB formatted
0103-039-TES	2836 pcs., Steel Planks, G.I., 1.2 mm thickness x 240 mm width x 2 m length
0106-020	1 lot, Combination Pipe and Bench Vise, heavy duty, outdoor type, Packing Extractor/Hook Set, handy, service-proven special tool for removing stuffing box packing and Packing Ring Cutter, complete with Extension Scale Special tool for cutting packing rings
0106-046-TES	1 lot, S/P for Fire Fighting Booster Pump, Pump Type/Model MR-100-4 Multi-stage, closed type impeller, single suction centrifugal pump, Manufactured by Furukawa Co., Ltd., consisting of 24 items
0106-047	25 boxes Fastener, for heavy duty conveyor belts std. stainless steel + carbon steel staples, Titan IR #26 PN T10010626B & Titan IR #22 PN T10010622B and 15 pcs. Flexible Armoured Stainless Steel Connecting Pin, 7.0 mm dia. for 1400 mm belt width, PN AXE607011400 & for 1050 mm belt width, PN AXE607011050, Preferred Brand GORO
0106-049	6 pcs., Reamer, size 65 mm dia. x 500 mm long, Manufactured by Toshiba Coporation
0106-051	17 pcs., Rod, High Density Linear Polyethylene, sizes 1 1/2" dia. x 8' L, 2" dia. x 8" L & 4" dia. x 6' L
0107-002-TES	10 kits, Vulcanizing/Splicing Kit, for rubber conveyor belt 4/5 ply, EP 100/200, 1400 mm belt width, gum thickness 0.5, 1.0 and 2.5 mm, gum width 300 mm, gum length/thickness 0.5, 1.0 & 2.5 mm -5 m

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **August 6, 2001** and may be secured from Administration Division during working days from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM upon payment of P25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P 50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Sealed bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's/ Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

For further information, please call 527-4873, 527-4892, 527-4880.

(Sgd.) **E.S. DELOS REYES**
Manager
Administration Division

(PDI – Aug. 4, 2001)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2001-41

Rebidding Date: August 15, 2001 - 10:00 AM

PB010627-T3JR6291	WELDING ELECTRODES, various sizes
PB010627-T3WG6293	PLATE, CRLS, Various sizes
PB010627-T3JR6316	TIRE, Tubeless, 195-R14/185-R14, 8 ply
PB010727-T3WG5915	UPGRADING OF DESKTOP PC TO PENTIUM III-800 MHz/FUSER ASSEMBLY for HP PRINTER/TONER CARTRIDGE for HP Laser Printer
PB010727-T3WG5644	POWER SYSYEM DYNAMIC MONITORING EQUIPMENT
PB010727-T3JR6452	SPARE PARTS FOR RTU EQUIPMENT/MULTI-FUNCTION RECORDER (Transistor, Connector, Capacitor, Regulator, Socket, Resistor, Ethernet Modem, Card, Telephone/Ethernet Cable, Crimper, etc.)
PB010727-T3JR6448	CARBIDE BURRS, Various Sizes
PB010727-T3JR6449	SAFETY MATERIALS (Face Shield Visor, Rubber Gloves, Welding Apron)
PB010727-T3JR6450	ARGON GAS, Welding Grade, 99.98% Purity

****Bidding Date: August 22, 2001**

2001-41-01	BATTERY BANK, 48 Volt, Gel type, Maintenance Free
2001-41-02	TIG WELDING GLOVES/WELDING ELECTRODE, Size: 3 3/32' dia. X 7 length
2001-41-03	SHAFTING BARS, various sizes
2001-41-04	LABORATORY CHEMICALS (Acetone, Perchloric Acid, Sodium Peroxide, Potassium Disulfate)/CLEANING SOLUTION, Heavy duty, Water Soluble, non-toxic
2001-41-05	LOAD METER INDICATOR, 09-384001-1, for Super King Air 350 RP-2850
2001-41-06	SERVICES: One year supply of Mineral/Purified water
2001-41-07	SERVICES: Job order for the Installation of Additional Conduit & Cable Tray at Mexico S/S, Pampanga
2001-41-08	SERVICES: Job Order for the Expansion of Cable Trench at Biñan S/S
2001-41-09	SERVICES: Supply of Labor & Materials for the Repair of Mitsubishi Stake/ Boom Truck

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the Metro Manila telephone directory. ** Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on **August 10, 2001.**

Bidding documents available on **August 2, 2001** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). ** Last day of issuance of bidding documents **August 16, 2001.**

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Aug. 3 & 4, 2001)

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Bid form can be secured from Management Services Department c/o Mr. Raoul Trinidad 7th Floor, Room 718 of the same address at Tel. Nos. 525-9289 or 525-9271 local 222 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Bidders interested only for the vessel's BULLET TANKS may also submit their offer.

Sealed bids should be dropped in a bid box provided at Room 718 not later than **2:00 p.m. August 17, 2001** upon which bids shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders.

A bidders deposit of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) in the form of cash, cashier's or manager's check is required. Bid indicated should be inclusive of ten (10%) percent Value Added Tax (VAT).

PNOC-STC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality or infirmities found therein, or to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **JOCELYN G. ATOTUBO**
Chairperson-Disposal Committee

(PDI - Aug. 3 & 4, 2001)

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Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

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Telefax Nos. +632 7342217; +632 7342218

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission-Project Management Office (PRRC-PMO) is inviting all eligible bidders for the printing of about 7,000 copies of reference materials, a sub-component of the DANIDA-funded Danish Assistance to the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program with the following specifications:

Size	:	81/4" x 10 3/4"
Cover Stock	:	Foldkote 12, full color, matte laminate
Inside Stock	:	Book 60, one color
No. of Pages	:	220 pages
Binding	:	Perfect Smythe
Printing	:	Offset
Format	:	Diskette Ready
Estimated Cost	:	1.7M

Interested bidders shall submit their Application for Eligibility to the Chairperson, Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC), PRRC-PMO, 4th Floor, PMS Bldg. Arlegui St., Malacañang, Manila, NOT LATER THAN 5:00 p.m. from **August 3, 2001** to **August 16, 2001**. Eligibility Statement Forms may be obtained from PRRC-BAC Office.

Those who are eligible to bid for the project are duly licensed individuals for single or sole proprietorship, partnership or corporations and printing industries that will form themselves into a joint venture that intend to be jointly liable for the contract.

Eligible and ineligible bidders shall be notified by PRRC-BAC through telephone or fax on **August 18, 2001**. Thereafter, eligible bidders shall get their Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable payment of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) each from the PRRC-BAC during the Pre-Bid conference on **September 2, 2001** at the PRRC-BAC Office.

The deadline for the submission of Bid Documents and Price Proposals, and the Opening of Bids will be on **September 17, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the PRRC-BAC Office.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Bid Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. No. 302 and its implementing rules and regulations as amended by E.O. No. 262 dated **July 5, 2000** and other applicable rules and regulations.

The PRRC-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The PRRC-BAC for any reason may annul the bidding process at any time prior to the awarding of the contract without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder/s. Decision of PRRC-BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Chairperson, BAC

(PDI - Aug. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

OBITUARIES

Arch. Marian Marcelo Pajar

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 1, 2001 at the age of 41.

Her bereaved family: parents **Engr. Adriano P. Marcelo** and **Jasmin O. Marcelo**; husband **Ringo**; children **Adrian Joseph, Mac Ivan**; brother **Manolo**; sister **Mildred**; brother-in-law **Gerry**; sister-in-law **Amy**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel C, Marian Memorial Chapel, Marcos Hi-way, Antipolo Rizal.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 12:00 noon Mass.

Esperanza San Miguel Angeles

Morong, Rizal
(1910 - 2001)

Widow of the late DR. PATROCINIO B. ANGELES joined her Creator on August 2, 2001 at the age of 91.

Her children and children-in-law **Pat** and **Jasmin, Fernando** and **Nancy, Esperanza (Girlie), Vivienne** and **Quy**, and **Elaine**; brothers and sisters and their spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at #88 Tupaz Street, Morong, Rizal. A Funeral Mass will be held at Morong Catholic Church on August 5, 2001, Sunday at 1:00 PM.

Interment will follow at the Holy Angels Memorial in Morong, Rizal after the Mass.

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ROLANDO ALBA

Retiree of United Laboratories

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 2, 2001 at the age of 60.

His body lies in state at
Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel,
Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be announced later.

INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Long and winding day

Q. Is it true that the days are getting longer than ever?

A. Yes. The Earth spins on its axis at a speed of about 1,600 km per hour (1,000 miles per hour), but it has long been slowing down. When our planet was formed billions of years ago, it was rotating much faster—at about 6,400 kph (4,000 mph), scientists estimate. That means that a day then was only about 6 hours long. At the time the Moon was much closer to the Earth, but it has been moving steadily away ever since. The Moon's gravity, pulling on the Earth, causes the oceans to rise and fall, and this sloshing makes the planet spin more slowly, year after year. And for every 100 years, the day gets half a minute longer.

Classified Odd. A well-respected astrologer once told the young King Louis XVI of France to beware of the 21st day of each month. For the rest of his life he lived in fear of that day and avoided making plans or contact with people as far as possible. Come the French Revolution, Louis lost control of his appointment with death. He was arrested on the 21st, he lost his kingdom on the 21st, and was later guillotined on January 21, 1793.

Past Forward. This day in 1964: President Diosdado Macapagal signed into law Republic Act No. 4166, changing Philippine Independence Day from July 4 to July 12.

WORD WATCH

Mutable (myoo tuh bol) : capable of change or being changed.

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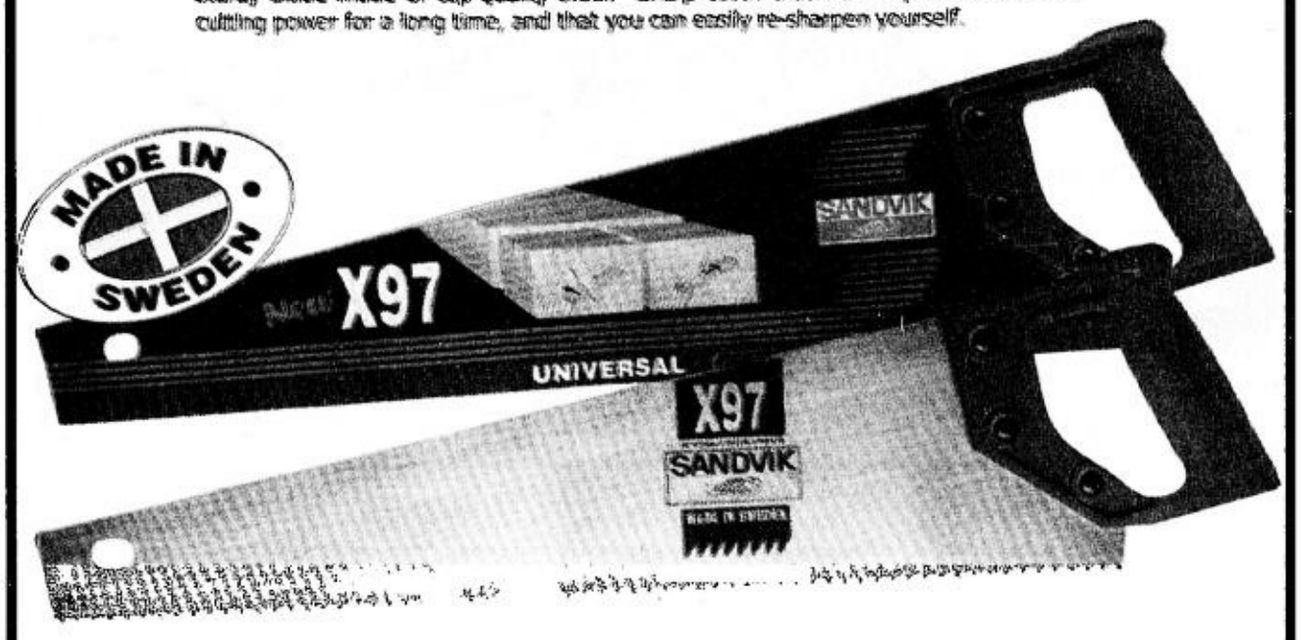

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Leadership crisis hits retirees group

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

A GROUP of "*balikbayan*" and foreign retirees in the Philippines are asking the government to help them gain control of a retirement association they have been funding for years that they claim is now working against their own interests.

Forty-eight members of the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association Foundation Inc. told the Inquirer that they were condemning the leadership of Ramon Collado, a Spaniard, for the association's failure to deliver benefits to retirees or to account for funds collected from its members.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, these Prama members and some participants of the government's retirement program said they wanted to strongly disassociate themselves from the recent statements and actions of Collado.

The group also expressed support for Philippine Retirement Authority vice chair and chief executive Vernette Umali-Paco, whom the Office of the Ombudsman suspended for six months based on a complaint filed by Collado.

In December, the PRA, which is under the Office of the President, terminated a memorandum of agreement with Prama that allowed the association to collect one-half percent of the interest derived from the bank deposits of PRA retirees.

The cancellation of the memorandum also effectively prevented Prama from requiring retirees to pay P2,000 in membership fees.

"We have discovered that despite the fact that although the alleged charges have yet to be provided in court, a personal and vindictive campaign has been launched to discredit and to remove the chief executive of the (Philippine Retirement) Authority from her post. Indeed, it would appear that the Ombudsman's office has been persuaded to suspend Paco without pay on the basis of these unproven allegations," the anti-Collado Prama members said.

Harold Friedland, an American Prama member married to a Filipina, said the group wanted to be able to exercise their democratic right to elect their own representatives to Prama.

Leyte solon asks NTC to derail Nextel, Globe interconnection

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

A LAWMAKER has asked the National Telecommunications Commission to prevent Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. from interconnecting with Globe Telecom Inc., citing constitutional violations that Nextel has supposedly committed.

In a letter dated July 5, 2001, Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. wrote NTC chief Eliseo Rio to "reconsider in granting the said interconnection agreement between Nextel and Globe."

Nextel was accused of exceeding the 40-percent limit in foreign ownership of public utilities.

In his letter, Saludo asked Rio to postpone any interconnection agreements between Nextel and any other carrier, "at least until the conclusion of a Congressional investigation."

Rio said, however, the NTC could not stop Nextel from interconnecting because it had yet to prove that it violated the law.

Meanwhile, lawyer Alan Paguia of the Alan Paguia and Associates law office also wrote a letter regarding this matter, this time to Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

It accused Nextel's local shareholders of being dummies for a foreign corporation, Nextel International Inc.

He also wrote that these two companies, Gamboa Holdings and Emerald Investments, held only 20 percent and 28 percent of Nextel's capital stock.

"NII has claimed ownership of 59 percent of NCPI's capital stock," the letter stated.

But a person familiar with the matter told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that Nextel was not violating any constitutional provision.

"If you follow his (Paguia's) approach, all listed companies will be in the same position (as Nextel)," the source said.

The source further stated that 60 percent of Nextel may have foreign components, "but all the companies there are considered Filipino because they are 60-percent owned and led by Filipinos, even though there may be some foreign equity infusion in them."

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DOJ junks SEC case against Wincorp execs

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice dismissed on July 3 the Securities and Exchange Commission's complaint against Westmont Investment Corp. directors and officers led by the company's former chair, John Espiritu, son of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu.

The SEC had claimed that the younger Espiritu and Wincorp directors—Henry Cua, Loping, Simeon Cua, Manuel Tankiansee and Alfonso Reyno III—were criminally liable for the company's failure to register its investment scheme with the SEC in violation of the country's securities laws.

In its resolution, a copy of which was received by the SEC only last Tuesday, the justice department ruled that the Wincorp directors and officers were only civilly and not criminally liable for their actions.

A large group of Wincorp investors who have long been waiting for the DOJ resolution said it learned that there was already a DOJ resolution only last Monday.

In an interview, a spokesperson for the 333 Investors Group Association, which has P500 million in placements with the investment house, said the group would contest the ruling of the department.

The spokesperson said the DOJ has no competence to dispute the findings of the SEC, which has the expertise and, under the law, the special authority to review securities transactions.

The SEC has accused Wincorp of fraud for enticing about 1,000 investors to place about P7 billion for relending to the investment house's beneficial owners, including companies owned by Espiritu and his father's associates. The companies have defaulted on the loans.

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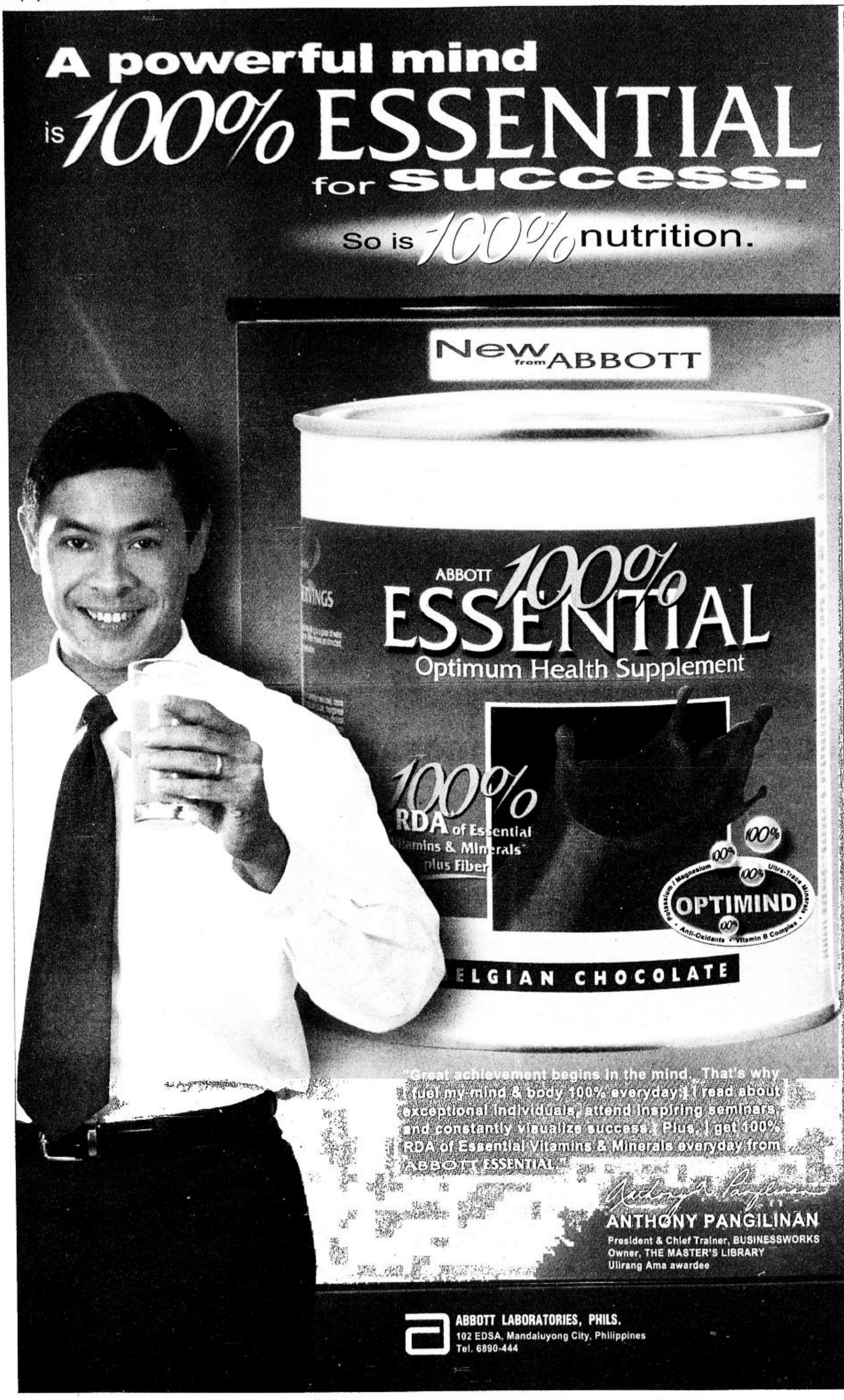

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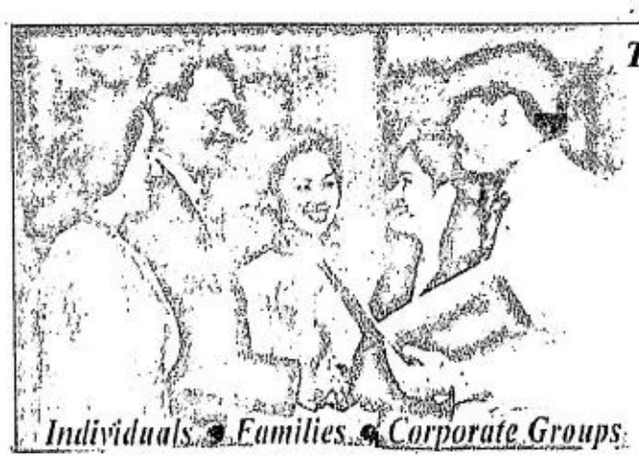

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DIGGING INTO FISCAL POCKETS

SE Asia spends today, worries tomorrow

SINGAPORE—Southeast Asian countries are digging deep into their fiscal pockets to get their economies going, but, in the process, are creating budgetary holes that will prove tricky to mend.

Public sector deficits above 3 percent of gross domestic product are not uncommon in Asia these days. Faced with the nightmare of slowing exports and capital flight, however, governments are trying to make the public sector do what the private sector cannot.

And that policy is leading to yawning budget deficits as taxpayer money is sunk into bigger and better public works.

What is troubling financial analysts is that while short-term fiscal boosts may help economies weather the US slowdown, they are not being teamed with the kind of structural economic reforms that the 1997 crisis so clearly made a priority.

For example, it is obvious the Philippines and Malaysia are simply raising funds in global capital markets to plug the budget gap, but once funds are raised, inefficiencies start to tell.

"For most of the countries in Southeast Asia, the concern is that the fiscal policy is to raise capital, but then that capital is not used in a productive fashion," said Chris Tinker, head of equity strategy at Deutsche Bank.

"It's used to prop up economically unviable state-owned entities. Or it's being raised to keep financial systems from imploding, but at the same time perpetuating the problems those systems have."

Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand are all running budget deficits this year above 3 percent of gross domestic product, although this is small change compared with Indonesia's public sector debt, which almost equals its GDP.

Thailand has announced an expansionary budget for the next fiscal year ending September 2002, with a deficit twice the size of the current year's 105 billion baht ($2.3 billion).

Malaysia unveiled a $789-million fiscal package in March, which its central bank said would push the 2001 deficit to 6 percent of gross national product from an initial target of 4.9 percent.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently proposed ambitious poverty alleviation programs, including the creation of 1 million new jobs within a year. But the government says these will not blow out its budget deficit.

While these packages are laden with projects aimed at boosting domestic economies, they are not paired with hard-nosed reforms on revenue collection and corporate restructuring.

"They need to have short-term measures of fiscal spending, but you have to have the structural reforms to help the medium- and long-term economic growth," said Takahira Ogawa, Standard & Poor's director of Asia-Pacific sovereign ratings in Singapore.

Unfortunately, some analysts say these countries missed the boat on reform, and that will take the edge off the stimulus.

"The bitter cocktail of inadequate corporate restructuring, political uncertainty and social instability is undermining investor sentiment and impeding the positive multiplier effects of expansionary fiscal policy on private demand," said Lehman Brothers in a recent research note. *Reuters*

Bright sign seen in US job market

WASHINGTON—Claims for US unemployment benefits fell sharply for the third straight week last week, the government said Thursday in a report that offered hope the massive US economic slowdown may be nearing an end.

But another report showed new orders from US factories fell in June, suggesting the hard-hit manufacturing sector was still struggling to climb out of a painful recession.

The factory report was not all bad news, however. Inventories at US factories fell for the fifth straight month in June, a trend economists said could indicate manufacturing activity may pick up in the near future.

The Labor Department said claims for state unemployment benefits in the week ended July 28 fell 23,000 to 346,000, the lowest level since 333,000 in the Feb. 17 week and well below Wall Street expectations of a rise to 385,000.

Labor said seasonal factors were partly at play last week as workers returned to jobs following annual summer layoffs. But economists said the report was positive all the same.

Investors appeared to take the same view and Treasury bonds sank as the upbeat jobless report softened expectations of heavy future rate cuts from the Federal Reserve.

"Although claims can be pretty volatile in July, I still think it is an encouraging trend," Gary Thayer, chief economist at AG Edwards & Sons in St. Louis, said. "It is consistent with what you'd expect once the Fed rate cuts start to kick in and the excess inventories situation has cleared up."

The closely watched four-week moving average, considered a more reliable gauge since it smoothens out weekly fluctuations, fell to 395,250 from 409,750 for the four weeks that ended a week earlier.

It was the lowest four-week moving average since a matching 395,250 in the period that ended April 21.

The weekly claims data came out a day before the government issues its monthly employment report, which analysts will anxiously scan for a read on the health of the US labor market and the economy as a whole. *Reuters*

PREPARING FOR APEC AP

Workers arrange the ground to construct a park in front of traditional houses in Shanghai. The city government cleans up the street, builds new parks and reinforces the security of China's financial and economy capital to be the host of the meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in October.

World Bank lending rises to $17B

WASHINGTON—World Bank lending rose to $17.3 billion in the fiscal year ending June 30, with a sharp increase in interest-free loans to Sub-Saharan Africa and new commitments to South Asia, the two poorest regions in the world, the bank reported Thursday.

The total was up from $15.3 billion in the previous fiscal year, with lending to Africa rising 56 percent to $3.4 billion and to South Asia rising 54 percent to $3.2 billion.

Latin America and the Caribbean claimed the largest share of World Bank lending of any region at $5.3 billion against $4.1 billion last year, the bank said.

"These results show that the bank is living up to its commitment to help the world's poorest regions—those that need development assistance the most," said World Bank president James Wolfensohn. *AFP*

PC industry past worst, says Intel

PENANG, Malaysia—The world computer industry is past the worst of the new-fangled technology cycle, but a full-blown rebound depends on the global economy recovering, the president of Intel Corp. said on Thursday.

"The computer industry has bottomed out. That in itself tells you that you're looking at when it's gonna take off," Craig Barrett told Reuters.

The world's No. 1 chipmaker derives 80 percent of its revenues from supplying chips to computer makers and has been among the firms worst-hit by the global slowdown.

In the past three quarters, the 33-year-old chipmaker has had to warn of lower sales as demand for PCs slowed.

But Barrett said demand for personal computers was expected to improve in the second half of this year on buying ahead of the new school term and for the holiday season as well as by the introduction of the new Windows XP (news—websites). *Reuters*

Rate cuts to provide temporary boost

SINGAPORE—Interest rate cuts may provide a temporary boost to faltering Asian economies in the second half of this year, but the landscape remains littered with risks, according to Standard Chartered Bank.

The slowdown in the US economy and the inability of emerging markets to boost domestic demand to make up for the slack have dragged some economies into recession and spawned a spate of bad news from the region.

"Despite this, we have not changed our reading or view of the global economic and financial market outlook," the Britain-based banking giant said in a report by Gerard Lyons, its head of global markets research.

"This is largely because we have been at the pessimistic end of expectations about the US for some time," it said.

"Although there is little doubt that the US and the world economy are slowing, policy responses and the impact of lower interest rates may provide a temporary boost to economic growth over the second half of this year."

It said the weakness of recent US economic data might prompt another interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve at its meeting this month, but the key would be if consumer demand would remain steady.

"It is important to be cautious about the end-game" for the US economy, the largest in the world, the report said.

"The need for balance sheet adjustment points to an eventual US recession, and these problems may be hitting hard next year, explaining our view that in 12 months' time US rates are still more likely to be falling than rising.

"But predicting the exact profile is always hard and the near-term risks appear to be on the downside."

With the exception of China, where industrial production rose by an annual rate of 10.9 percent between January and July, the rest of Asia has been hurting from the US slowdown.

Pressure is increasing for further cuts in interest rates but fears over its inflationary effects amid weaker currencies have put central banks on the side of caution.

Standard Chartered, however, argued that bringing down interest rates was key to boosting domestic consumption.

"Indeed, the message across much of Asia is similar to that seen in Japan over the last decade. With domestic demand sluggish and debt still high there is a strong case to boost domestic demand through lower interest rates," the bank said.

"The sooner this is done, the greater the chance of success. The longer it is left, the greater the risk of failure." *AFP*

Troubled Argentina edges closer to securing international help

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentina on Thursday appeared closer to clinching more international financial support to help quash global concerns that Latin America's third largest economy would default on its $128-billion public debt.

US Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs John Taylor, due to visit Argentina on Friday for a progress report, said Thursday that there was a "good chance" of bringing forward International Monetary Fund aid disbursements.

It was one of several signs Argentina may not have to go through it alone despite earlier indications that the international financial community was wary of coming to its aid.

In a key show of support, US President George W. Bush phoned President Fernando de la Rua on Wednesday to congratulate him on the passage of his "zero-deficit" plan in Congress.

"There was no discussion of new money. The focus of the discussion was the important steps the De la Rua administration was taking and its existing IMF program," US National Security Council spokesperson Mary Ellen Countryman said.

Argentine Cabinet chief Chrystian Colombo told a news conference on Thursday that De la Rua had asked Bush to send down US government officials to witness the measures his administration was implementing.

"What was sought was the presence of US government officials to enable them to be completely informed about the measures implemented by the Argentine government," Colombo said, adding Taylor's visit was for exactly that purpose.

Taylor said earlier it was "hypothetical" to talk about new cash for Argentina now, and that he was not visiting to negotiate new aid.

Asked if Argentina was going to get earlier-than-scheduled, previously agreed IMF loan disbursements, which total about $2.5 billion for the rest of the year, Taylor told reporters, "There is a good chance that there will be something like that."

The statements were a boost for a government that suffered another market drubbing on Wednesday as investors worried over possible runs on international reserves and bank deposits.

A German finance ministry spokesperson said Thursday that Argentina sought German support for speeding disbursements of IMF aid as well as additional help. But Germany had yet to decide whether to back Argentina's request, he said.

Buenos Aires said it would request faster loan disbursements only if it thought they were necessary. A speeding up in the payment schedule could reassure investors the country would meet all its loan commitments.

Despite De la Rua managing to pass a law to end deficit spending and carrying out huge debt swaps, the recession-hit country has struggled to convince investors that a default on payments of its public debt is not just around the corner.

Colombo blamed market speculators for compounding Argentina's woes, but said they had underestimated the government's resolve.

"Argentina is suffering a speculative run on its bonds because (speculators) did not think we would be able to cope and would allow the country to collapse," he said.

Argentina received an IMF-led $40-billion package in December, but that failed to boost the economy out of a three-year slump. Local markets had plunged and made new international credit too expensive to get as worries grew that the recession would make the debt burden unbearable. *Reuters*

JAPANESE pedestrians walk past an electronic stock board in Tokyo. Share prices in Tokyo closed 1.3 percent lower as investors locked away profits on high-technology issues following robust gains the previous day. The Nikkei average of 225 key issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange lost 157.23 points to end at 12,241.97. AP

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We thank the Lord for giving us our beloved...

Encarnacion H. Ramos

who peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 72.

I, **Alberto**, together with my children **Elizabeth, Fr. Greg, Francis** and **May, Cynthia** and **Mon**, and my grandchildren, **Mayie** and **Luigi, Diana, Joseph** and **Angel** request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Mass will be on Sunday, August 5, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at the Presentation of the Child Jesus, BF Homes Phase III, Parañaque.

Interment will follow at 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

In Loving Memory
on the 28th Death Anniversary of

AURELIA LOMBOS VERZO

of Parañaque, Metro Manila
(who died on August 4, 1973)

Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

St. Jerome and Sta. Susana Parish ..... 6:00 a.m.
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa
St. Andrew Parish, *Parañaque* ..... 6:00 p.m.
Mother of Good Counsel Parish ..... 7:00 p.m.
Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque
Mary the Queen Parish ..... 6:00 p.m.
Greenhills West, San Juan

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For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

ENGR. VICENTE S. UMALI

April 1, 1931 – August 1, 2001

His bereaved family, wife **Pacita Ermitaño**; children and grandchildren: **Karen & Omar Mendoza, Patrick, Nica; Florian & Melanio del Castillo, Irene, Diego, Gaspar; Marco Umali; Miguel & Rose Umali, Miko, Ayeesha; Thiele & Harry Anthony, Ariella, Sam, Dominic**; sisters **Sis. Salvacion OSB, Remedios Segovia, Modesta Margallo, Purificacion Galang**; brother **Dominador Umali**; brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at Claret Church, UP Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

FRANKLIN C. BAUTISTA

Peacefully joined his Lord on August 2, 2001 at the age of 51.

His loving wife **Alice**; children **Aileen, Maureen, Frank Jr., Kathleen**; father **Braulio**; brothers and sisters **Jesus** and **Evelyn, Cesar, Sherri** and **Bob, Prez** and **Jim, Tess, Connie** and **Stephanie**; relatives and friends mourn his passing and wish him eternal rest.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"You will be forever in our hearts"

EUGENIO LASCANO HIZOLA

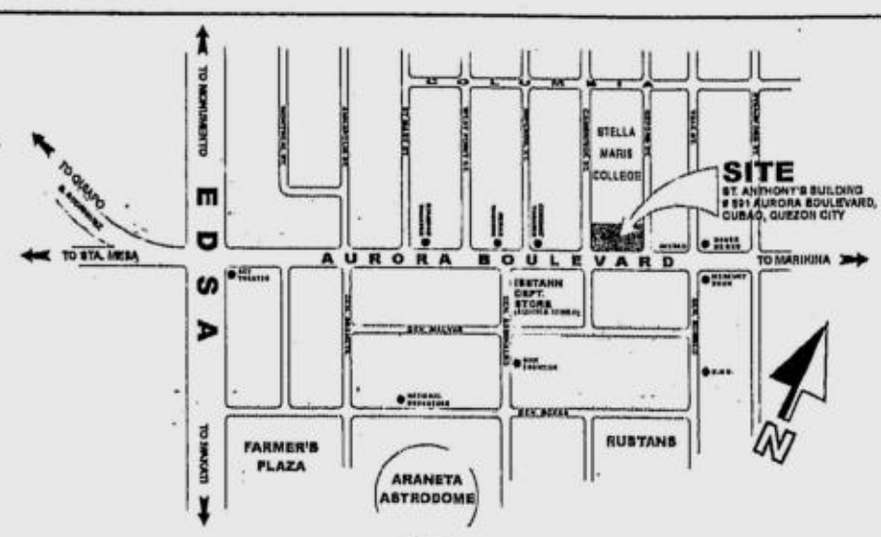
of Bulan, Sorsogon and Cainta, Rizal

Died in the Grace of our Lord on the 2nd day of August at the age of 57.

He is survived by his wife **ROSEMARY**; daughter **EUROSE**; son **AUGUSTUS EUGENIO**; sisters **LOLY & BABY**; brothers **BOY & NONONG**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Lot 7, Blk. 61, Karangalan Village, Phase I-B, Cainta, Rizal.

Interment to be announced later.



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"Thou I walk in the valley of darkness
I fear no evil for You are with me."
Psalm 23:1-6

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of

UNITED PACIFIC CAPITAL CORPORATION
UPCC REALTY CORPORATION
UPCC SECURITIES CORPORATION

express with deep regret the passing of

EDGARDO "HADJI" TEJICO KALAW

Chairman and President
United Pacific Capital Corporation

who passed away in the USA on July 29, 2001 at the age of 79.

His cremated remains will lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City on August 5th and 6th.

Interment will be held after the Funeral Mass at 4 p.m. at St. James Church in Ayala Alabang on Tuesday, August 7, 2001.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.
2 Cor. 4:14

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

New Toshiba notebook: lightweight, portable, uncompromising

Toshiba recently announced the arrival of its new ultra-portable Satellite 31CDT, the latest in the affordable Satellite series. Weighing at just 1.8 kg with fully integrated ports, the new Satellite 31CDT is the perfect solution for anyone on a budget without compromising portability and computing power in the field.

"As a mobile computing industry leader, Toshiba is constantly pushing the boundaries of portability," said Noriyuki Hayashi, regional marketing manager, Toshiba Singapore computer systems division. "Our foremost considerations in designing the Satellite 31CDT were portability and value. Making a lower cost, highly mobile notebook computer available to professionals and students who require the features and performance of a desktop machine is an important priority for Toshiba."

Catering specifically to the requirements of the business and education markets, the Satellite 31CDT provides excellent portability and exceptional on-the-road performance with a formidable combination of power, multimedia, storage, and display capabilities, all in a lightweight and highly portable package.

The Satellite 31CDT incorporates a Mobile Intel Pentium III processor 700 MHz (low power) featuring Intel SpeedStep technology and is fully upgradable at 128MB memory (max. 256MB with one free slot). In addition, the Satellite 31CDT boasts a 20GB hard disk drive, a 12.1" XGA TFT color display and integrated 16-bit Sound Blaster Pro compatible sound systems for superb multimedia functionality. It also features a Modular Bay that accommodates different hot-swappable devices, including a 24X (max.) CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy disk drive, weight saver, optional DVD-ROM drive as well as an optional CD-R/RW drive. With a built-in Firewire (IEEE 1394) port, it allows quick connection to a wide range of peripherals including digital still/video cameras, scanners, hard drives and printers.

Other than the multimedia feature set, the Satellite 31CDT also provides convenient access to the World Wide Web via an integrated modem and high-speed 10/100Mbps Ethernet port for quick network and Internet connectivity. Whether at home, on the road, or at the office, this high-speed Internet connectivity enhances the productivity of the mobile user.

PLDT, WG&A AGREEMENT

PLDT recently signed an agreement with WG&A Super Commerce Inc. for the marketing and distribution of Fonkard Plus and Touch Card products. PLDT's accredited wholesaler Ackers Philippines Inc. will supply the Fonkard Plus and Touch Card to WG&A to be sold in terminals and aboard the commercial outlets of all Super Ferry ships. Signing the agreement are (from left) WG&A Super Commerce Inc. business development group head Roxybeth A. Legaspi, PLDT national retail marketing VP Jonjon L. San Agustin and Ackers Philippines SVP Paul Wee.

RIZAL BEAUTIES

Winners of the Centennial Search for Bb. Rizal 2001 pose with their crowns, trophies and cash prizes during the coronation night at Ynares Center, Antipolo City last June 9. They are (from left) Bb. Rizal second runner up Kathlyn Pacia, Bb. Rizal Trade Liza Rose Cruz, Bb. Rizal 2001 Catherine I. Fernandez, Bb. Rizal Tourism Jeanne Harn and Bb. Rizal first runner up Mary Virginia Bungay. The pageant is a project of the Rizal provincial government in cooperation with the Rizal Tourism Council headed by Mar Bacani and Larry Valencia.

Better penmanship series develops pupils' excellent handwriting skills

ONE'S handwriting may make or break a student's educational aspiration. Handwriting may spell success for one student, for another failure. Just imagine a brilliant student flunking an exam because the teacher could not read his/her handwriting. "Exercises for Better Penmanship" (EBP) answers the need for an innovative grade school program in writing that may hopefully curb the pitiful consequences of poor penmanship. Originally limited to Grades 1 to 4, the EBP series has been expanded to include two new books – for grades five and six. Moreover, the new edition has more improved features for developing not only the pupils' handwriting but their creative skills as well.

The series offers activities that will help pupils develop fine penmanship and at the same time provide them with additional knowledge and skills in the alphabet, grammar, spelling, simple composition, basic number concepts and operations and other subject areas like science and history. Guidelines for the teacher are integrated within the workbooks to fully explain to the teachers the features of the series and how these can be maximized in developing and polishing their pupils' mastery of the skill and art of encoding the English language. "Exercises for Better Penmanship" is published by SIBS Publishing House. Interested schools may call 374-2870 for book orders or examination copies.

MONDEX AND FIGARO PARTNERSHIP

Modex sponsors the Figaro Business Class at Figaro Coffee Restaurant at the 3rd level Shangri-La Mall. Members of Business Class may avail of e-mail, fax and concierge services while enjoying their coffee at Figaro. Now the perfect place for meetings, Figaro Shangri-La has even added services to be enjoyed by its mostly businessmen clientele. Shown during the launch are honorary members (from left) Deanne Panlilio-Montoya, lawyer Dingdong Peña, Figaro director Chit Juan and Bong Salazar. Early signups may be entitled to raffle for World Business Class tickets to Bangkok courtesy of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Call 751-1801 for details.

EASTPAK'S NEW BACKPACK LINE

Eastpak, the top backpack choice for teens in Europe which also maintains a strong showing in the United States, recently introduced in the Philippines a new line of backpack bags targeting a specific market of youths that are known for their individuality, extreme attitude, carefree disposition and cool outlook in life. The new backpacks have been designed to be as simple, comfortable, functional and best suited for today's active youths. Shown at the launch are (from left) Toby Claudio, operations manager of Toby's Sports and Hobbies Store; Bing Relucio, Toby's assistant merchandising manager; Liza Enciso, product manager for Eastpak of Sports Resources Inc. (SRI); and Jhe Japitana, SRI sales supervisor. Eastpak backpacks, exclusively distributed in the Philippines by SRI, are available at all Toby's Sports and Hobbies outlets, Royal Sporting House, Crossings Department Store, Chris Sports Plaza, Store Shop, Odyssey Music Store and other leading bags, sports and hobbies stores.

PROPER HYGIENE DEMO

Unilever Philippines Channels officer Jonathan Te (fourth from left) and the DomeX-Men pose with the DL Admark Services Inc. maintenance team after a product clean-up demo and short talk on proper hygiene in Parañaque City. The DomeX-Men emphasized the significance of 'hygienic clean,' a level of clean that does not only get rid of surface dirt (visibly clean) but deep-seated dirt as well. Domex is committed to promoting proper hygiene practices among Filipinos. Recognized by the International Scientific Forum on Home Hygiene, the Philippine Public Health Association and the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), Domex is available in 100, 250 and 500 ml bottles. For product inquiries, call the Domex hotline at 564-0465 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-888-327 (outside Metro Manila).

Omega introduces the new De Ville with Co-axial escapement

BACKED by more than a century of perfecting the art and science of watchmaking, Omega introduces another technological enhancement in the new Omega De Ville with Co-axial Escapement. Made in conjunction with renowned British watchmaker George Daniels, the new timepiece makes use of not one but a double co-axial escape wheel, thus reducing the friction in the escapement and improving the long-tern accuracy of the watch.

The design elements echo the classic Omega models of the '50s, which is marked in the purity of lines of the fully polished case. The dial features an applied Omega symbol, date window at 3 o'clock and Alpha-style hour and minute hands with luminous inserts, housed beneath a domed, scratch-resistant sapphire crystal with multi-layered anti-reflective treatment on the inside.

MB E240: enjoy luxury without the interest

ENJOY the luxury of owning a Mercedes-Benz E240 2.6 liter without the interest that goes with other financing plans with a 50-percent downpayment and 0-percent interest for 12 months, from June 7 to Aug. 6. At a price of P3.2 million, the Mercedes-Benz E240 is powered by a 2.6 liter, 170 horsepower, V8 engine and managed by a 5-speed automatic touch shift transmission with "Speedtronic".

Ease of use is highlighted by the ESP (Electronic Stability Program) which comes standard. This is considered the state of the art in dynamic handling control systems, and works in unison with the ABS (anti-lock brake system) and Brake Assist, assuring Mercedes drivers of the highest possible degree of active driving safety. For inquiries, visit Commercial Motors Corp., its branches or any of its authorized dealers or call 641-2286.

LEL PLASTIC TOP ACCOUNTS PARTY

The LEL Group of Companies, Medical Plastic Corporation, Hygienic Packaging Corporation and Lotus Packaging Corporation, headed by chair and president Dr. Lino E. Lim hosted the first Top Accounts Party last July 6 at The Executive Plaza Ballroom. Special recognition was given to 10 business partners who had contributed the most or highest revenues to the company. Shown are the department heads of LEL Plastic Group of Companies, (from left) Judith Bellosillo, sales and marketing manager; Vilma de Mesa, MPC production manager; Bien Concepcion, general manager; Shirley Sasi, administrative manager; engineer Boy Carpio, HPC operation manager.

WOMEN OF STRENGTH

The Secret 'Woman of Strength' winners are (from left) Jenny Sibug, Jackie Benavidez and Happee Sy. The search was sponsored by Secret Platinum, the new antiperspirant and deodorant especially made for women that provides superior dryness and odor protection plus skincare in one. A product of Procter and Gamble Phils., Secret has always been at the forefront of what's important in women's lives today by understanding who they are and what they need.

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AIR FORCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Fernando Air Base, Lipa City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The AFRDC invites all interested dealers/suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and materials for the fabrication of Ten (10) units Aircraft Battery Cart.

Deadline for the submission to PBAC of Letter of Intent, DTI Registration Certificate, Business Name, Latest Audited Financial Statement and **Pre-Bid Conference is on 16 Aug 2001, 9:00 AM at the AFRDC Conference Room, Fernando Air Base, Lipa City.**

Failure to submit all the PBAC requirements before the Pre-bid conference and the personal attendance of prospective suppliers/dealers and/or their duly authorized representative to the Pre-bid Conference shall disqualify any bidder to participate. **Dropping and Opening of Bids is on 23 Aug 2001, 9:00 AM.**

Sealed bids must be in duplicate and accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 10% of the bid, but not to exceed P20,000.00 in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check or Surety Bond from AFPGIC.

The AFRDC PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waived any defect or informality of the bids received and accepts the bids most advantageous to the government and does not guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of the PBAC on such matters shall be final and binding.

For further information, please contact the PBAC at telephone nos. (043) 575-0600 or (043) 575-0633.

(Sgd.) **ARTEMIO D. GABRIEL**
Lt. Colonel PAF
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – July 31, Aug. 4 & 8, 2001)

Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO BID NO. NE II-DOE-EF-2001-001

The Department of Energy pursuant to Department Circular No. 95-11-009 under Energy Regulations No. 1-94 implementing Section 5 (i) of Republic Act No. 7638, as amended and its attendant rules and procedures, has allocated from its Electrification Fund (EF) an amount to be made available to Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) for the electrification projects in the province of Nueva Ecija as per Notice to Proceed No. EF 2001-486 dated February 13, 2001.

Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following distribution lines:

PROJECT PROPOSAL	KM OF LINE			
	2-Phase	1-Phase	Underbuilt	Open Secondary
1. Brgy. Capintalan, Carranglan		2.210	2.210	0.390
2. Brgy. Putlan, Carranglan	6.910		6.910	0.700
3. Brgy. Plut, Carranglan	6.450		5.550	0.420
4. Brgy. Mayamot I, Talugtug		3.950	0.280	1.050
5. Brgy. Mayamot II, Talugtug		4.020	1.030	0.280
6. Brgy. Sta. Catalina, Talugtug		3.530	0.650	0.420
7. Brgy. Maasin, Talugtug		1.200	0.560	1.260
8. Brgy. Villa Rosario, Talugtug		3.020	1.540	0.560
9. Brgy. Alula, Talugtug	3.360	0.210	1.540	1.190
10. Brgy. Buted, Talugtug		3.390	2.240	0.700
11. Brgy. Saguing, Talugtug				0.280
12. Brgy. Sampaloc, Talugtug		1.710	0.700	0.490
13. Brgy. Macapabellag, Guimba		1.330	0.320	0.350
14. Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Guimba		4.980	3.940	0.700
TOTAL	16.720	29.550	27.470	8.790

Bidders are required to bid for the whole package only.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting August 6, 2001, by eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).**

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the PBAC, NEECO II, Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, Tel. No. (044) 411-1007. Pre-bid Conference will be held on August 24, 2001 at 9:00 AM at NEECO II Board Room also of the same address.

Sealed proposals in two (2) copies will be received by the PBAC at Village Inn, Mabini Homesite, Cabanatuan City, at exactly 10:00 AM, August 31, 2001 at which time and place said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidder's representative who choose to attend.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to **TWO AND A HALF PERCENT (2.5%)** of the Bid Price.

NEECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein, and accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Cooperative.

ENGR. JUN S. CAPULONG
PBAC, Chairman
NEECO II

(PDI – Aug. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6, 2001)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Hospitals also centers of wellness

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

Hospitals today not only offer curative and rehabilitative services but also preventive health and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

This week saw government hospitals putting emphasis on hospitals as "centers of wellness" with the observance of National Hospital Week. Free hospital services were given to the public nationwide starting last Monday and these will be offered until Aug. 12.

Until tomorrow, the ultra-commercial SM Megamall will host a health fair with 60 booths offering free blood typing, hemoglobin testing, blood pressure check, bone calcium level evaluation, ultrasound and ECG. There will also be cardio-pulmonary resuscitation demonstrations.

"Today's hospital has gone beyond the conventional idea: as a place of last resort, where people with serious illnesses are brought for treatment," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit explained the concept of "hospitals as centers for wellness."

The concept involves six Cs: Comprehensive health care, Community-oriented, Culture friendly, Clean and green, Competent and well-managed, Caring, compassionate and communicating staff.

Some of the free health services being offered by government hospitals until Aug. 12 are pap smear, breast examination, digital rectal examination, tubal ligation, vasectomy and eye refraction.

There will also be surgical missions for indigent patients such as thyroidectomy, cleft lip surgery, eye operations and sterilization surgeries. Health caravans will also visit district hospitals.

The Philippine hospital system, according to Dayrit, is composed of 1,888 hospitals, 72 of which are DOH-retained, 562 under local government units, 103 under government agencies and 1,146 privately owned.

"At least 30 percent of the clientele of many national hospitals and even many private hospitals (involve) primary and secondary consultations. It means people are not getting the services at the community level and in district hospitals, that's why they go out of the tertiary facilities. That's a very inefficient system," he said.

Dayrit added that tertiary level hospitals have to work with district systems as well as the community to make sure that primary and secondary cases are being kept at the community and the district levels.

Meanwhile, not all is well in the health care sector.

The NGO Community Medicine Development Foundation (Commed) said that in the Philippines, health services are not affordable to those in the lower socio-economic classes.

Commed assailed the government for reducing spending in health care services, further worsening the health care system.

Commed executive director Dr. Mary Christine Castro said that many people are dying without ever seeing a doctor because they have no money to pay for health services.

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'Stemming' the tide

BY MASSIE K. SANTOS

The latest on stem cell research

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Reuters, AFP

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Like human cloning, stem cell research faces opposition by governments, with debates covering medical, religious, political, ethical and moral grounds. As a result, there are times when the facts have become overshadowed by rhetoric and strong emotions on either side of the issue.

People need to understand what stem cell research really is in order to understand the moral and ethical dilemmas confronting both politicians and scientists.

What they are

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There are two kinds of stem cells: totipotent, or cells which can completely develop into an organism, and pluripotent, or cells that can form most of the organism's tissues.

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Providing cures

Stem cell research is believed to eventually provide cures for illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, heart disease, spinal-cord injury, osteoarthritis and diabetes.

Another use for stem cells is cell therapy, where the stem cells can be made to develop into specific cells and tissues to replace damaged ones. For example, heart muscle cells could be developed from stem cells and transplanted into a patient in need of a new heart in order to keep the heart working while waiting for an organ transplant. Adult stem cells obtained from the patient and then used to treat him could avoid the risk of rejection as well. At this point, however, the uses of stem cell research are still being tested on animals.

Using human embryos

When most people think of stem cell research, they think of embryonic stem cell research, or research conducted on human embryos using totipotent stem cells.

That belief is partly accurate.

First, most scientists use pluripotent human stem cells. One source of these stem cells is blastocysts at infertility treatment clinics. In these cases, the donor couples of the embryos gave scientists permission to use the excess embryos. All donors were fully informed about the research before they granted permission. Another source of stem cells is fetal tissues (a fetus is defined as an embryo that is at least 55 days old) from terminated pregnancies and the donors in these cases decided to have the abortions before they were even approached by scientists. In these cases, the donors also gave informed consent.

Still, the fact that blastocysts are destroyed to obtain the stem cells raises the issue of humans being used for scientific experiments. This is the main argument around which most of the ethical, moral, political and religious dilemmas are clustered.

Dilemma

One question involves defining the moment at which a human being comes into existence. While some feel that an embryo is not yet human, there are others who believe that at the moment of conception, the single cell formed is already a human being.

Another dilemma that inevitably comes up then is the justification of killing a human being to help develop treatments for other humans.

Totipotent stem cells can theoretically be formed if an animal egg cell with its nucleus removed was fused with a somatic cell (one that is neither an egg nor a sperm cell).

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Scientists are still trying to determine the full extent of a multipotent stem cell's capabilities, backed by those who are ethically troubled by the use of embryonic stem cells for research.

Unfortunately, adult stem cells do not exist in great abundance at any time, and decrease in number as a person ages. Since they also lack the capability to become most cells and tissues, their use is more limited compared to pluripotent embryonic cells.

Is the possible cure to several illnesses worth the destruction of human embryos? Some say yes, and some say no. The theoretically beneficial uses of stem cell research will, unfortunately, not be tested on humans for several years to come so the question will have to remain unanswered till then.

The more pressing question is whether or not the ethical and moral dilemmas raised will allow stem cell research to continue, albeit with alternative sources of material. Unless scientists find more abundant quantities of adult stem cells, the research may have to continue amid a storm of controversy.

(Massie K. Santos has a bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the Wesleyan University, Connecticut)

The case of Chad Borja

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

IT'S one experience many would not want to recall and retell. But singer Chad Borja recounts his bout with thyroid cancer to give hope to others going through the experience.

Almost three years after undergoing an operation for thyroid cancer that almost cost him his career, Chad is back in the limelight this time not only singing but also providing inspiration to thyroid cancer patients.

Last Saturday, aside from singing in front of an audience of thyroid patients at the St. Luke's Medical Center, he inspired others with his courageous fight against thyroid cancer and told them that being stricken with the disease does not mean the end of the world for anyone.

"I used to think that way though," he confessed. "The moment the doctor told me I had cancer, I thought I was going to die. But after reading about the disease and meeting people who have survived it, I began to get confident that I will be able to live through that episode and resume a normal life."

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Difficult decision

Undergoing neck surgery to remove his thyroid gland was a difficult decision Chad had to make. His biggest fear was losing his voice, the very thing that has given him fame and fortune since he started winning singing contests at the San Carlos University where he studied. He had heard of people, some of them professional singers like himself, who had lost their voices after the thyroidectomy. Just the thought itself haunted Chad for days on end.

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A history of Filipino science

(Last of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

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The first of a series of these roundtable discussions began in 1979 and this has continued to the present. Some topics that had been or are still subject to these discussions are nuclear issues, science career systems, various aspects of health and nutrition, rice self-sufficiency and other problems and a code of ethics for scientists and researchers. Other topics: food security, science information and management, science education and telecommunication, venture capital, transportation, housing, flood control, water supply problems, indigenous people and biodiversity conservation, animal testing and assessments of the state of Filipino science and technology.

Results of these discussions included concrete policies, such as those that paved the way for the establishment of the "science career service" in the government and protecting scientific career positions.

Protecting our resources

Another was the formation and subsequent approval of the biosafety guidelines, the first ever in Southeast Asia, including China. In 1990, then President Corazon Aquino signed an executive order creating the National Committee on Biosafety and the enactment of the Guidelines on the Collection of Biological Specimens, a program to safeguard and regulate collections of biological specimens in the country. A third was the formulation of the Guidelines for Researchers on Ethics and Procedures.

The NAST was also instrumental in the signing of an executive order to prevent the unrestricted invasion by foreigners of our natural heritage in flora and fauna, even our native tribes.

The NAST has been active in giving expert advice and recommendations on a number of bills, resolutions, executive orders, etc. The House of Representatives, the Senate and other concerned government agencies, including the local governments, seek advice from the expertise of Academicians in formulating policies related to science and technology or in passing of bills and similar legislation.

For instance, the NAST gave advice on the oil spill in Manila bay, the locust infestation in lahar areas, red tide, cholera, coconut industry, as well as GATT and AFTA.

The NAST advised on how to increase the number of science teachers by allowing science graduates to teach even without the required 18 units of education. In fact, in the year 2000 alone, the NAST responded to 14 bills and orders.

New division

What does the future hold?

Some restructuring was recently done, with the splitting of the Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences to create another Division—the Engineering Science and Technology Division, a significant move to attract more experts in engineering and information technology.

However, pressing issues on ecology and environment, information technology, food security, population growth, poverty, hunger, health, nutrition, among others, continue to affect many Filipinos. There may be no easy and simple answers to complicated and interrelated issues, but the NAST assures us that a pool of experts will always be available to help us address these.

Enticing scientists

National Scientist Gelia Castillo also takes note of a special challenge—what she terms "countervailing forces such as immigration, national and international consultancies, private industry and administrative positions." These forces entice our scientists (the young ones are more vulnerable) away from public service as they provide more rewards. One way to counteract this is to provide our scientists with greater and more meaningful incentives.

As an illustration, Castillo talked about the one-million-peso prize money, the house and lot, the cars and the many other gifts awarded to Onyok Velasco, a Filipino boxer who won a bronze medal in the 1996 Olympics. She added that world-class scientists do not bring as much glory to the Philippines as world-class boxers do.

Recognition of excellence in science and technology will always be a priority of the NAST. After all, this is one way by which it can promote and develop a strong scientific culture in the country. The NAST always requests for a higher budget and the bulk of this proposed increase goes to its recognition function so that more excellent scientists will benefit. Return of investments will come in the form of a globally competitive Philippines with more productive and healthier citizens, a cleaner environment, a healthier ecology and lower incidence of poverty and hunger.

According to NAST president Dr. Perla Santos-Ocampo, this is after all what science is all about—it is applied to meet the needs of the greatest number of people toward a better quality of life. The pursuit of truth and knowledge should mean bringing the blessings of science for the enjoyment of all.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" every Wednesday for www.inq7.net. She can be reached at the Ateneo Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City or at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Hospitals also centers of wellness

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

Hospitals today not only offer curative and rehabilitative services but also preventive health and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

This week saw government hospitals putting emphasis on hospitals as "centers of wellness" with the observance of National Hospital Week. Free hospital services were given to the public nationwide starting last Monday and these will be offered until Aug. 12.

Until tomorrow, the ultra-commercial SM Megamall will host a health fair with 60 booths offering free blood typing, hemoglobin testing, blood pressure check, bone calcium level evaluation, ultrasound and ECG. There will also be cardio-pulmonary resuscitation demonstrations.

"Today's hospital has gone beyond the conventional idea: as a place of last resort, where people with serious illnesses are brought for treatment," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit explained the concept of "hospitals as centers for wellness."

The concept involves six Cs: Comprehensive health care, Community-oriented, Culture friendly, Clean and green, Competent and well-managed, Caring, compassionate and communicating staff.

Some of the free health services being offered by government hospitals until Aug. 12 are pap smear, breast examination, digital rectal examination, tubal ligation, vasectomy and eye refraction.

There will also be surgical missions for indigent patients such as thyroidectomy, cleft lip surgery, eye operations and sterilization surgeries. Health caravans will also visit district hospitals.

The Philippine hospital system, according to Dayrit, is composed of 1,888 hospitals, 72 of which are DOH-retained, 562 under local government units, 103 under government agencies and 1,146 privately owned.

"At least 30 percent of the clientele of many national hospitals and even many private hospitals (involve) primary and secondary consultations. It means people are not getting the services at the community level and in district hospitals, that's why they go out of the tertiary facilities. That's a very inefficient system," he said.

Dayrit added that tertiary level hospitals have to work with district systems as well as the community to make sure that primary and secondary cases are being kept at the community and the district levels.

Meanwhile, not all is well in the health care sector.

The NGO Community Medicine Development Foundation (Commed) said that in the Philippines, health services are not affordable to those in the lower socio-economic classes.

Commed assailed the government for reducing spending in health care services, further worsening the health care system.

Commed executive director Dr. Mary Christine Castro said that many people are dying without ever seeing a doctor because they have no money to pay for health services.

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Another was the formation and subsequent approval of the biosafety guidelines, the first ever in Southeast Asia, including China. In 1990, then President Corazon Aquino signed an executive order creating the National Committee on Biosafety and the enactment of the Guidelines on the Collection of Biological Specimens, a program to safeguard and regulate collections of biological specimens in the country. A third was the formulation of the Guidelines for Researchers on Ethics and Procedures.

The NAST was also instrumental in the signing of an executive order to prevent the unrestricted invasion by foreigners of our natural heritage in flora and fauna, even our native tribes.

The NAST has been active in giving expert advice and recommendations on a number of bills, resolutions, executive orders, etc. The House of Representatives, the Senate and other concerned government agencies, including the local governments, seek advice from the expertise of Academicians in formulating policies related to science and technology or in passing of bills and similar legislation.

For instance, the NAST gave advice on the oil spill in Manila bay, the locust infestation in lahar areas, red tide, cholera, coconut industry, as well as GATT and AFTA.

The NAST advised on how to increase the number of science teachers by allowing science graduates to teach even without the required 18 units of education. In fact, in the year 2000 alone, the NAST responded to 14 bills and orders.

New division

What does the future hold?

Some restructuring was recently done, with the splitting of the Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences to create another Division—the Engineering Science and Technology Division, a significant move to attract more experts in engineering and information technology.

However, pressing issues on ecology and environment, information technology, food security, population growth, poverty, hunger, health, nutrition, among others, continue to affect many Filipinos. There may be no easy and simple answers to complicated and interrelated issues, but the NAST assures us that a pool of experts will always be available to help us address these.

Enticing scientists

National Scientist Gelia Castillo also takes note of a special challenge—what she terms "countervailing forces such as immigration, national and international consultancies, private industry and administrative positions." These forces entice our scientists (the young ones are more vulnerable) away from public service as they provide more rewards. One way to counteract this is to provide our scientists with greater and more meaningful incentives.

As an illustration, Castillo talked about the one-million-peso prize money, the house and lot, the cars and the many other gifts awarded to Onyok Velasco, a Filipino boxer who won a bronze medal in the 1996 Olympics. She added that world-class scientists do not bring as much glory to the Philippines as world-class boxers do.

Recognition of excellence in science and technology will always be a priority of the NAST. After all, this is one way by which it can promote and develop a strong scientific culture in the country. The NAST always requests for a higher budget and the bulk of this proposed increase goes to its recognition function so that more excellent scientists will benefit. Return of investments will come in the form of a globally competitive Philippines with more productive and healthier citizens, a cleaner environment, a healthier ecology and lower incidence of poverty and hunger.

According to NAST president Dr. Perla Santos-Ocampo, this is after all what science is all about—it is applied to meet the needs of the greatest number of people toward a better quality of life. The pursuit of truth and knowledge should mean bringing the blessings of science for the enjoyment of all.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" every Wednesday for www.inq7.net. She can be reached at the Ateneo Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City or at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

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DIESEL. Strategizing yielded results.

Diesel owes career to persistence, self-reliance

BY DAVID GERMAIN

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California—Vin Diesel could be poster boy for all out-of-work actors who have thought about packing it in and joining the 9-to-5 set.

Talent

A stage actor who had trained in New York City theaters since childhood, Diesel came to Hollywood a decade ago at 23 expecting studios would clamor for his talent.

Instead, the muscular Diesel had to fall back on his skills as a nightclub bouncer to make ends meet.

"I came out here thinking, I'm a New York actor, this town's just going to eat it up, and I'm going to be working like crazy," said Diesel, 33, who stars as leader of a street-racing gang in "The Fast and the Furious."

"A year goes by, and I failed miserably. I can count the auditions on two hands. I went back to New York a complete failure. I had to regroup and strategize."

From that strategizing came "Multi-facial," a short film Diesel wrote, directed and starred in. It was shot in three days in 1994 for just $3,000.

The film had a prestigious screening at the Cannes Film Festival, but its real payoff came in 1997, when Diesel returned to New York from the Sundance Film Festival, where his low-budget feature film "Strays" had played.

Phone call

"I got a phone call on Saturday morning," Diesel said in an interview at the venerable Hollywood hotel Chateau Marmont.

"My agent said that Steven Spielberg just saw 'Multi-facial' and loves it. That was enough for me. I don't know how much more she really needed to say to put me on cloud nine. I was ecstatic."

But there was more. Spielberg wanted Diesel in "Saving Private Ryan." Diesel's response: "What's 'Saving Private Ryan'?"

"She goes, 'Only the most anticipated film in the industry,'" Diesel said. "So I said, 'Sure, I'm game.'"

Months later, Diesel was in Europe playing Private Caparzo, the member of Tom Hanks' squad killed by a sniper. It was Diesel's first professional film job. It was his first big acting money. It was the first time he got health benefits.

"And that was after 20 some years of acting," Diesel said. "I was so happy to be going out there, going to Europe for three months to work with Steven Spielberg, who I always admired as a director and was going to be able to learn from. The reality is if he had asked me to come out there and give him coffee, I would have."

After "Saving Private Ryan," Diesel was hired to lend his resonant voice to the title character of the animated adventure "The Iron Giant." Next came a supporting part in the stock-market drama "Boiler Room." Then the lead as an escaped killer in last year's sci-fi horror flick, "Pitch Black," a role tailor-made for Diesel's rock-hard frame, piercing dark eyes and shaved skull.

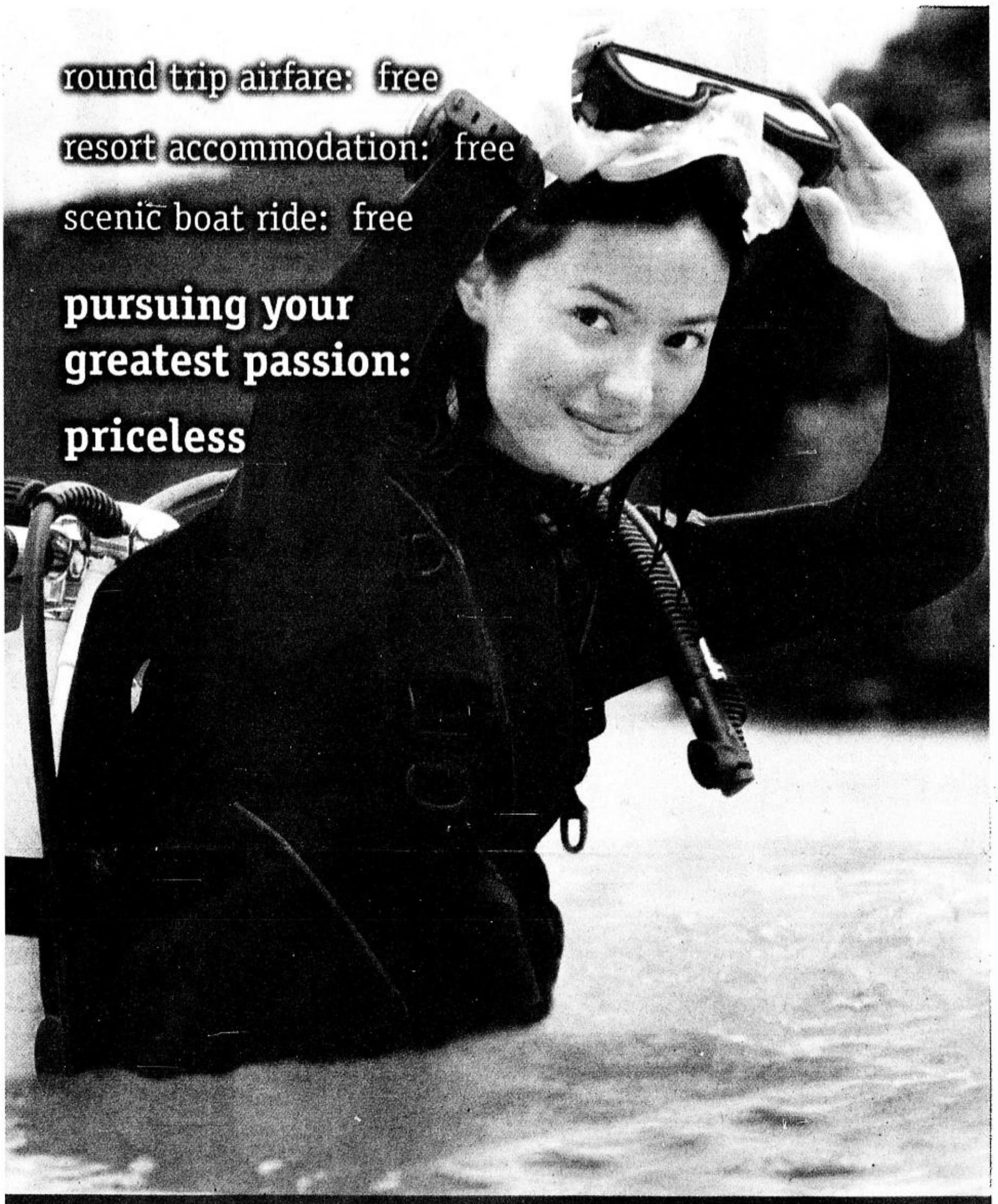
Street-racing scene

In "The Fast and the Furious," Diesel plays Dominic Toretto, king of the Los Angeles street-racing scene. The film follows his uneasy friendship with a new kid on the block (Paul Walker), who turns out to be an undercover cop investigating a rash of truck hijackings.

Before filming, Diesel attended some illegal street races and came to understand what draws drivers to the sport.

"It's an opportunity to be competitive without

DIESEL/p.C2



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Having a good cry on TV

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LAST Sunday, viewers had a good cry while watching some of the early-evening shows on television. On Sharon Cuneta's program on Channel 2, Sharon and her best buddies Zsa Zsa Padilla and Bing Loyzaga were crying their eyes out as they and their respective daughters expressed their love for each other for all the world to see and hear.

Appreciation

Not to be outdone, Channel 7's "Partners: Mel and Jay" featured stepmothers and their stepchildren, and tears flowed on that set as well, as the stepchildren belatedly expressed their appreciation for what their second mothers had done for them.

But if an award for the most copious weeper were handed out that night, it would definitely have gone to Sharon, who went to pieces as she sang a particularly meaningful song to her beloved KC.

Sharon's tears were grateful and loving, but some of the waterworks in the "Mel and Jay" episode that night were made murkier by some past resentments that the weepers had to first confront and then rise above, before they could achieve a similarly liberating and loving catharsis.

In this regard, the contrast between the two shows was interesting, indeed.

Tearjerkers

Why does local TV just *love* to make its program hosts and guests cry? Because our entire *lives* are six-handkerchief tearjerkers, that's why—and our televised cry-athons pull in the highest ratings, besides.

SHARON Cuneta (right) went to pieces as she sang to her beloved daughter KC on her show last Sunday.

The psycho-logic goes this way: the "ordinary" viewer has many problems in his own life to cry about, so it gives him a perverse kind of pleasure to see that the rich and famous can also be emotionally blackmailed into bawling in public.

A less cynical view has it that tears "humanize" a celebrity, so viewers like it when famous people break down because this means that they can be just as vulnerable as you and me, and this makes it easier for us to relate to them more personally, heart to heart (or hurt).

Whatever the motivation, celebrities are made to cry as a matter of course on local TV, and nowhere is this more apparent than on our show biz talk shows, where star-guests weep frequent and wanton tears—crocodile, alligator, iguana, *tuko*, *butiki*, or otherwise.

Trick

The trick on those shows is to subject the celebrity guest to rumored reports that a loved one or dear friend has been saying unkind things about him, prompting the celebrity to break down as he defends himself or rues the end of a beautiful relationship.

Or else, the celebrity is feted on his birthday, and his relatives and friends are trotted out to praise him to high heavens, touching him so much that he ends up a wet and blubbering heap.

Even better, an old grudge is dug up, and the show becomes the venue for the resolution of the conflict with another celebrity, who dramatically appears "in person" on the show so that the two former enemies can rush into each other's arms and bathetically bawl on one another's shoulders.

Genuine desire

Amazingly, many of these tearful displays are motivated, not just by a genuine desire to make belated recompense for an old hurt, but also to promote the celebrities' latest show biz projects.

That's why, after using those six handkerchiefs to wipe their copious tears away, the celebrities take a deep breath, put on their brightest smiles, and plug their new projects with great enthusiasm!

From rainy to sunny in the blink of an eye—that's show biz for you. And there are many stars willing to play the game—as long as their new projects, and consequently their careers, benefit from the lachrymal flood!

Diesel owes career . . . (From page C1)

gang warfare. It's a nighttime thing. I guess the fact that it's outside of the law makes it a little alluring, too," Diesel said.

While Diesel has mainly filled action roles so far, "Fast and the Furious" director Rob Cohen said the actor has the range to play subtle, serious parts.

"You can't typecast him. He's shown too many edges, too many shadings. Too much ability to turn on the heat and heart and muscle to say that he can only be in the Rambo school of films," Cohen said. "I believe we'll watch this guy win an Academy Award, and not for some action film but for something like 'Marty' or 'On the Waterfront.'"

Gangster film

Later this summer, Diesel co-stars with John Malkovich and Dennis Hopper in the gangster film "Knockaround Guys," and next year he stars in the drug thriller "Diablo."

Where would Diesel's career be if he had not made "Multi-facial"?

"That's a good question. Slightly unfair," Diesel said. "I don't know. But I do know it was the best thing I've ever done, the best move I ever made. That move came out of frustration."

In "Multi-facial," Diesel plays an aspiring actor trying to maintain a hopeful outlook amid endless rounds of failed auditions. Though it's a fictionalized film, Diesel drew on his own experiences.

"I used to say, 'If I'm not a star by the time I'm 18, I'm going to quit the business,'" Diesel said. "Then I said, 'If I'm not a star by the time I'm 21, I'm out of this business.' Then it was 23, then I changed it to 25!"

In the end, his big break with Spielberg didn't come till Diesel was nearing 30.

Diesel, whose father taught theater and whose mother was an astrologer, got his start in acting at age 7. He and some friends had wandered into a theater and were messing around with the props when a woman there offered them $20 a week to appear in a play that required children.

Stage work

Years of stage work followed. Diesel studied English at Hunter College but dropped out after three years to pursue acting full time.

A turning point came after his failed first trip to Hollywood. As he reassessed his career, Diesel received a book "Feature Filmmaking at Used-Car Prices"—as a Christmas present from his mother. *AP*

Giselle Sanchez, sexy comedienne

BY RITO P. ASILO

WE were surprised to learn that the newly renovated Greenbelt Mall not only has new shops and better cinema houses, but also a live performance venue—a new fine-dining strip with a makeshift platform at its center to accommodate concept shows, like stand-up comedy acts.

Naughtiness

It was sexy actress/comedienne Giselle Sanchez's turn to add a spicy slice of naughtiness when we visited Greenbelt's "Comedy Club."

The show started 30 minutes late and had a couple of musical miscues, but when Giselle, clad in a sexy neon-green mini and black sleeveless top, took centerstage, she brightened the otherwise somberly-lit place. She sang a medley of James Brown's "I Feel Good" and Tom Jones' "Kiss" as she picked up a guy from among the diners with the line, "Come to Mama."

Then Giselle delivered a rip-roaring punchline that broke the ice between her and her initially distant audience: "Mama will breastfeed you." We couldn't believe our ears!

Rapport

This irreverent humor and an obvious rapport with her audience characterized her one-hour act. Giselle used her intelligence, her sexy non-comic exterior, and a warm, inoffensive personality to delight the dining audience.

But what was different about this particular comedienne from other comic acts we have seen in the past was Giselle's warmth and her ability to find something funny in everything and everyone, even herself. Yes, and that included her husband, who was also in the audience: *"Mayaman po siya. Kaya ko siya pinakasalan!"*

Describing her first audience participant as a "top gun" of his company, she then proceeded to explain the description, "His top is gone," referring to the guy's bald pate. Asking her guest for a kiss, she first enumerated three kinds of kisses from which her guest could choose from: "Mongolian Kiss (she snorted and, we have to admit, the humor was lost on us); Australian Kiss (a kiss from "Down Under"); and Filipiniana Kiss (a *beso-beso* with tongue, as in, *belat!*)."

SANCHEZ. Irreverent humor.

She described herself as *"Ang babaeng pangit sa TV pero maganda sa personal"* and she broke into an infectious guffaw. She then explained that if she looked thinner in person, it was because "TV adds 20 pounds to one's weight." She further added, *"Parang malaki ang* boobs *ko, pero* pads *lang 'yan!"*

Chest

If she noticed that she was losing the crowd's attention, she would say things like, *"Ang hindi pumalakpak, malulugi ang negosyo!,"* or ask the audience to sing along or dance with her. She teased a middle-aged businessman, put his hands on her waist before they began their cha-cha, and then reminded him to look her in the eye, not her chest.

When foreigners walked past her to leave after they finished their dinner in the middle of her performance, she invited them back and said, "How about fathering my baby?" Nope, they didn't take her up on her offer. Even her husband laughed out loud.

Giselle is an expert at one-liners. She would make a seemingly innocent statement, and come up with a wacky one-liner that would effectively bring the house down. (*"Ang bango-bango niyo! Amoy* Tiger Balm!").

Her sexy jokes had double meanings: She picked an Austrian from the audience and asked him, "Is it true that your Vienna sausages are big?," and the Austrian national broke into an embarrassed smile and nodded his confirmation. "I would marry you if I weren't married yet," she told him. The poor guy was already purple in the face by then, but he had a bright smile.

Piece of cake

A true test of a comedian's talent is his or her ability to improvise. From the looks of it, this was a piece of cake for Giselle. She easily grasped what she could from her audience, like the way they looked (*"Amoy mayaman, mukhang* Congressman, *naka*-Rolex, *o!"*), or stood ("Don't put your hands inside your pockets!"), or smiled (*"Naku, Papa!"*), the way they combed their hair ("This is real hair, I suppose?"), the way they answered her questions—and automatically included them in her act. We wondered if she wrote her own material because they fit her personality to a T.

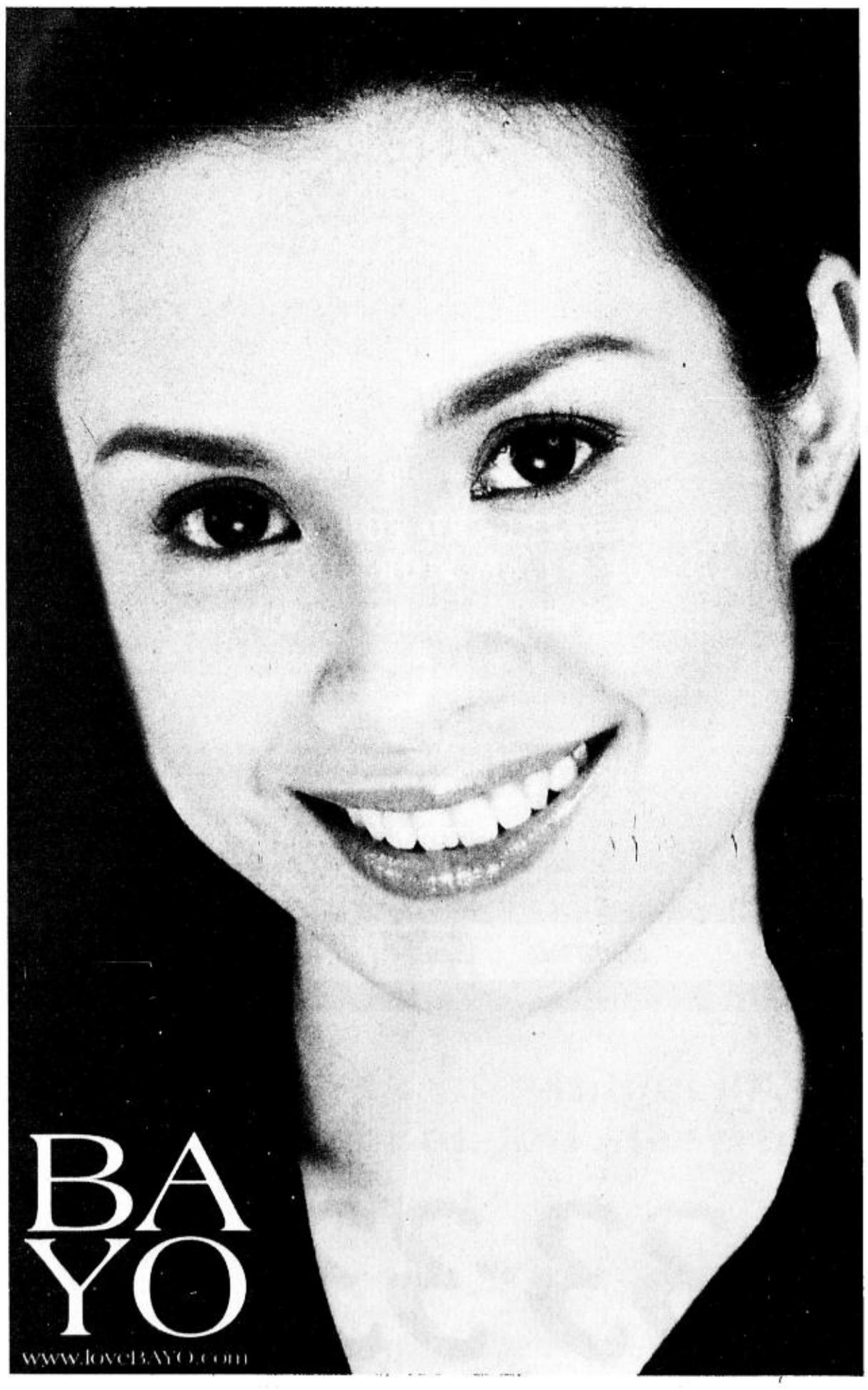
She dished out more green jokes that we can't print here, but the way she delivered them, they did not sound as offensive as when you tell these jokes to your friends.

Giselle even laughed at her own jokes. She enjoyed them as much as her audience, like when she invited the people to watch her new TV show, "Cooking *ng Ina Mo!*" and its spin-off, "Cooking *ng Ina Mo Rin!*" No, she does *not* have a new cooking show, she just liked the way the title sounded!

Striptease act

The most applauded part of her act was when she simulated a striptease act, with "Big Spender" playing on the monitors. It was a wacky number laced with cute, naughty but nice choreography. Unsurprisingly, it brought the house down.

When her audience looked like it couldn't get enough of her funny antics as the hour-long show was winding down, she promised she had more in her bag of magic tricks in her next show at Green Planet, Jupiter st., Makati. She promised to introduce a new character, Sarah Jessica Pokpok, based on the lead actress of HBO's popular series, "Sex and the City!"



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The show must go on

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

SEVERAL weeks back, former Broadcast City top honcho and erstwhile most in-demand producer/ director Kitchie Benedicto celebrated her nth birthday at the Embassy ballroom of the Traders Hotel in the company of family and friends.

Opportunity

Naturally, I didn't pass up the opportunity to break bread once more with one of my truest friends in this business where the environment isn't really conducive to the development of true friendships.

The occasion paved the way for a lot of reminiscences. After all, Kitch and I do go a long, long way. In fact, she isn't just a friend—she was my show biz fairy godmother.

At a time when no one believed in me—not even myself—she already did. And, during those times, when the formidable KB believed in you, that was something you could already deposit in the bank.

I still remember, I was just a radio announcer hosting an entertainment news program when Kitch told me that she was going to produce a show biz talk show for me—on TV. I was incredulous. I didn't show it but I was immediately riddled by feelings of unworthiness and inadequacy. And I nurtured the fear that always accompanies ventures into grounds yet untried and unknown.

I even consulted my dad who sagely told me that opportunity knocks but once, so whenever life gives you one, you must grab it right away. My dad's immortal words: "Learn on the job. Learn fast and learn well."

All throughout the live maiden telecast of "Nothing But the Truth," I had huge butterflies in my stomach. After the show, everybody congratulated me, but I prized most the affirmation I got from Kitch, who proudly exclaimed to me, "*That* was show business!"

Tips

I got lots of invaluable TV tips from Kitch. Like, she told me, "Don't just report the news. Make the news happen." Indeed, in "Nothing but the Truth" and all my other TV shows, the televiewing public didn't just get show biz news reports. The news often happened right before their mystified and, at times, horrified eyes.

BENEDICTO. "Make the news happen."

On the first few episodes of our show, we had some difficulty inviting the biggest stars to grace the program. Kitch shrugged it off by saying, "Don't worry. Even the biggest stars will soon understand the language of TV ratings. Time will come, guesting in your show will be the yardstick by which stardom will be measured."

Indeed, it soon came to pass that we'd have more guests than the time we had to give them sufficient exposure.

All through those times, Kitch and I really deepened our friendship—especially because we had a lot in common.

We were both gluttons for life, always eager to sink our teeth into every morsel of whatever new experience there was to savor. We singed our tongues not a few times, but never did we spit out what we had already chewed up.

And when we loved, we did so with everything we had. That line about having loved and lost being better than never having loved at all must have been thought up with us in mind. We had lots of fun times then, boozing ourselves silly, laughing and crying about our (mis)adventures in that la-la land called love.

Twinge of sadness

Ah, those were the days, and remembering then gave me a warm, poignant feeling. But I felt a twinge of sadness when I stared into Kitchie's eyes. Her lips and her cheeks were smiling, but her eyes, somehow, were not.

I remember the big birthday bashes thrown in Kitch's honor during our time. Just like now, they were held in posh places, food and drinks overflowed, dance music blared and the dance floor was always full.

And there were also lots and lots of people. But there was a big difference. Before, the biggest producers, the hottest stars and everybody who had a claim to show biz fame came to Kitch's birthday. They didn't dare *not* come—even the uninvited came.

Today, there were her family, her golfing buddies and her many, many friends from business and political circles—but the only show biz people I spotted were Christopher de Leon, Tirso Cruz III and his wife Lyn, Pops Fernandez and the Spirits of '67 band, who provided the music that evening.

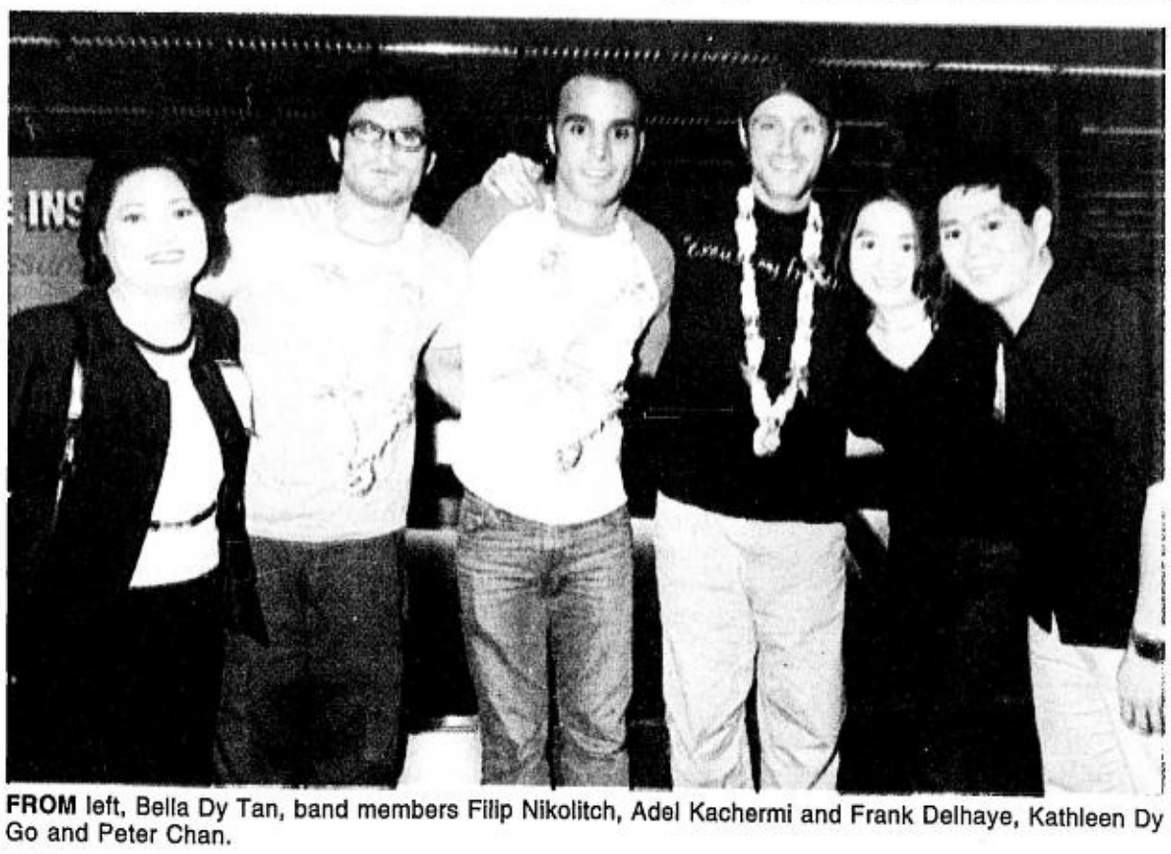
System

It wasn't hard to understand the sadness on Kitch's eyes. Long after the wheels of fortune had turned, she still couldn't seem to take show biz out of her system. For how could she? For the longest time, she ate, drank, slept, dreamt, breathed, lived and loved show business.

Show biz folks love this line: The show must go on. For Kitch, it most certainly should—definitely not because this industry needs to humor her, but because she still has a lot to give. I'm pretty sure, she still has many chart-busting show concepts up her sleeves.

Of course, I know that Kitchie is doing quite well. She basks in the love of her family and she has her hands full with a million and one things to attend to. But she'll always be happiest in show business, where the glow in her eyes always had a different sparkle to it.

Happy birthday, friend!



FROM left, Bella Dy Tan, band members Filip Nikolitch, Adel Kachermi and Frank Delhaye, Kathleen Dy Go and Peter Chan.

Pop sensation 2 Be 3 invades RP

BY REMY U. UMEREZ

THE ASIAN market has become so big that foreign record companies make it a point to include it in promoting an album. A recent visitor to the country was the all-male band known as 2 Be 3, France's pop sensation. They were in town for a promo tour of their first English album, "Excuse My French."

Top-rating sitcom

2 Be 3 consists of Adel Kachermi, Filip Nikolitch and Frank Delhaye, whose two French albums have already sold more than six million copies in their country alone. They're also a leading live concert attraction in Europe and their shows are sellout affairs. They also topbilled a primetime top-rating sitcom for a total of 52 episodes.

Adel, Filip and Frank are childhood friends who grew up in Longjumeau, a suburban city outside of Paris.

Adel's family was originally from North Africa and thus influenced by diverse cultures. A hip hop enthusiast and a breakdancer, Adel brings balance, originality and exoticism to the group.

Sports

Filip's family is from Yugoslavia but he was born in Saint Quyen (France). He excelled in sports and was a top athlete. In 1995, he won the "Model of the Year" competition organized by French broadcaster, TFL.

He founded 2 Be 3 in 1996 and in between shows, co-starred with Dennis Rodman in the action film "Simon Sez."

Filip is considered as Mr. Bean of France because he loves to make people laugh.

Frank was born in Colmar (East of France) and his parents divorced when he was a child. After high school, he turned to hip hop dance and martial arts, notably Viet Vo Dao.

After graduating from high school, he pursued a career in the performing arts. He had a part in a musical, "La Nuit Partagee," in 1993.

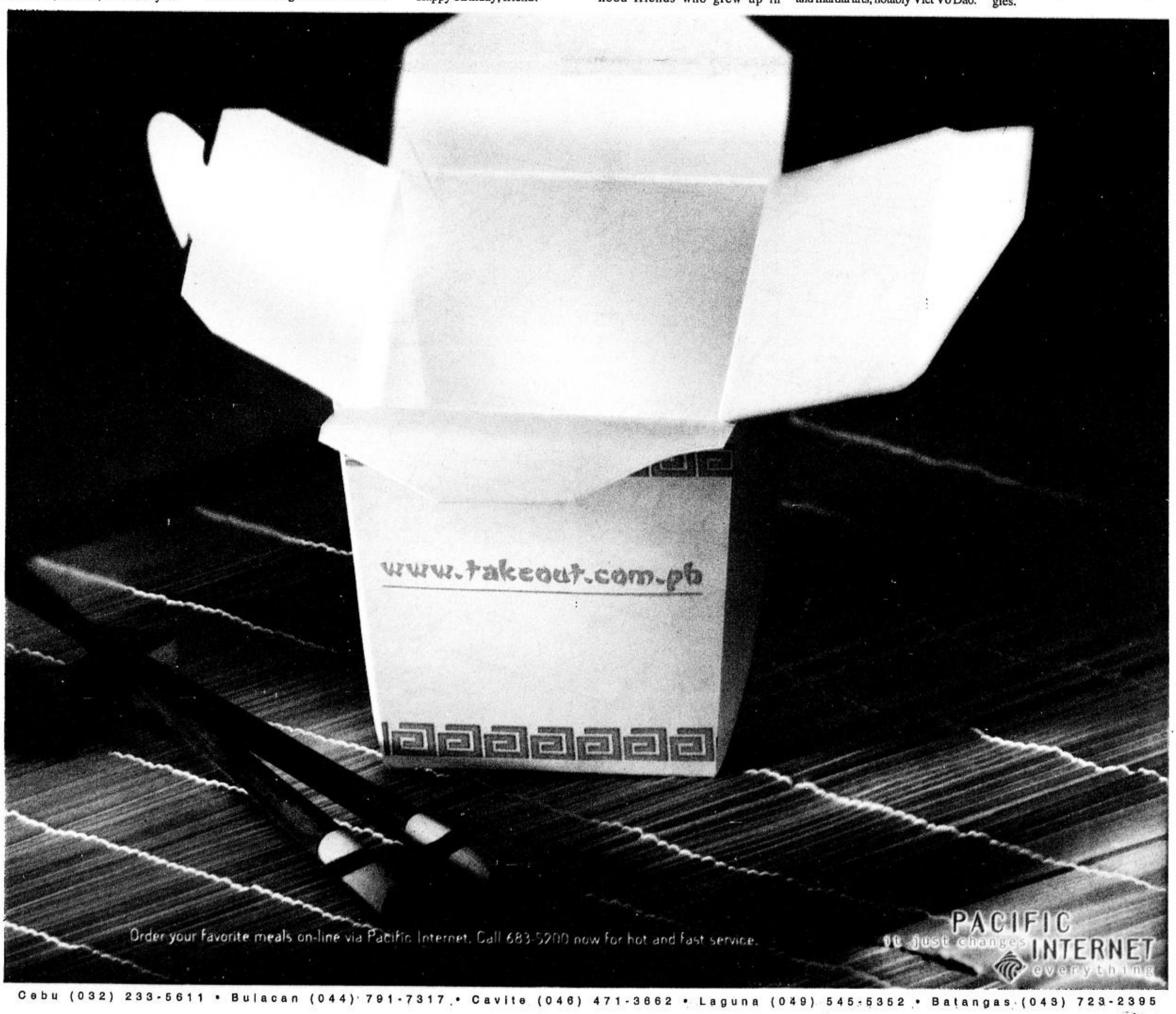
Association

Together with some friends, he set up an association called Chante de danse la delinquance (Sing and dance against juvenile crime) which ran until 1995.

Producer and songwriter Desmond Child took notice of the group and signed them up for their first English album.

The three worked hard to speak the English language accurately through the help of a phonetic coach while recording in America.

The title track from "Excuse My French" album is the group's first single. The monicker of the album and carrier single could have been "Excuse Our English," if Filip, Adel and Frank had not achieved mastery of their second language. Intentionally, some French words are contained in the lyrics, hence the apologies.



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BEMBOL Roco in Lino Brocka's "Maynila, Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag."

Viewers cite some influential Filipino directors and their movies

BY LEIA TORRE

DIRECTORS are the binding force of the movies they make, the artists responsible for holding all the parts of a production together. Their movies are the products of their personal styles and preferences.

Own ideas

Each director has his or her own ideas on how a movie should be made. Directors can guide undecided people towards accepting their beliefs about almost everything.

Here are some viewers' choices of directors who have influenced them with the movies they've made:

"Lino Brocka. *Magaling kasi talaga siya.* He is very successful in bringing out the potential of his actors. I admired his movie "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag." When I think of Brocka, I see him as the fundamental force behind the movies he directed." —*Eugene Remata, 22*

Supernatural

"Erik Matti. I especially liked his movie, "Pedro Penduko." He was able to create a Filipino fantasy film and imbue it with a comedic touch without having it degenerate into a slapstick disaster."—*Carlo Tsacto, 22*

"Lino Brocka. In my opinion, his works are masterpieces. I've also noticed that many actors who have worked under him have gone on to have their talent recognized. The movies he chose to make were socially relevant and may be used as an accurate gauge of society's progress—or lack of it."—*Medz San Pedro, 19*

Flexible

"Marilou Diaz-Abaya. Actors who have worked with her have been helped to break out of their stereotypes and have shown their audiences that they can be flexible. Cesar Montano is a good example of this.

"Diaz-Abaya, by casting Montano in non-action roles, has shown the public that he is capable of much more than simply holding a gun and looking tough.

"Furthermore, she does not rely on big stars to make her movies successful.

"Lastly, I like the way that most of her movies focus on Filipino culture and practices that would otherwise be forgotten."—*Layn Nebrida, 20*

Realistic

"Carlitos Siguion-Reyna. He makes realistic movies. The films are presented in a believable Filipino setting, and their plots, characters and dialogue are striking.

"'Ligaya Ang Itawag Mo Sa Akin' is a film that embodies the struggle of prostitutes to redefine themselves, to look at themselves as human beings deserving of respect.

"He also knows how to choose the material he directs. He is capable of finding extraordinary happenings in the lives of people living in the most mundane circumstances.

"The lack of high technology in making the film "Ligaya" enhanced the bastardized lifestyle the main characters were forced to live in. The actors he chooses to play the main characters in his movies fit the people they portray."—*Joseph Floren, 21*

"Carlitos Siguion-Reyna. He probes sensitive topics without malice. The cinematography of his movies is crisp and realistic, and sounds are likewise believable. I also like the way he makes Rosanna Roces act—she has been able to make movies that "sell" without depending solely on the exposure of her body."—*Walter Laurel, 19*

Madonna returns to the concert stage

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

THIS lady knows how to make an impression.

Twenty years ago, when she launched the Virgin Tour (her first outing), pop icon Madonna introduced her bombastic performance persona to the world clad in a wedding dress, writhing onstage and asking all the men in the house, "Do you want to marry me?"

Internet

That image prompted people to ask, "Who's that girl?" The question was to be answered aptly by succeeding tours. "Who's That Girl?" "Blonde Ambition," and her last "The Girlie Tour," not only set standards for shows on the road that spelled both critical and commercial success, but also ensured her becoming a living pop legends.

Now, after eight years taking her time to become mom and lover and part-time recording artist, the Material One returns with what is perhaps the most anticipated musical showcase of the year: "The Drowned World Tour." This fantasy-dream tour is described by the ever-morphing artist as "a theatrical presentation of my music inspired by martial arts, flamenco, country and western, punk, rock and roll, Botoh dance and the circus."

Five personas

Madonna unveils her music in five personas representing the five stages of her career: Rock and roll punk girl, Geisha girl, Cyber cowgirl, Spanish girl and Ghetto girl. To help achieve this effect visually, Madonna has tapped the services of designers Arianne Phillippes, long-time fashion connoisseur Jean Paul Gaultier and the tandem of Dean and Dan Caten from D'Squared.

The repertoire of "The Drowned World Tour" culls heavily from her last two albums ("Music" and "Ray Of Light"). Among the songs that made the list are the Grammy nominated "Ray Of Light," her chart-busting "Music," a Spanish rendition of her recent hit "What It Feels Like For A Girl," and our personal fave, "Don't Tell Me."

There is a smattering of songs from her other discs, too, such as "Secret" from 1984's "Bedtime Stories" and "Beautiful Stranger" from the movie "Austin Powers."

Noticeably absent, however, are some of her bigger signature hits like the No. 1 smashes "Like A Prayer" and "Vogue." From the '80s, only "La Isla Bonita" and "Holiday" have survived her censure.

Stunts

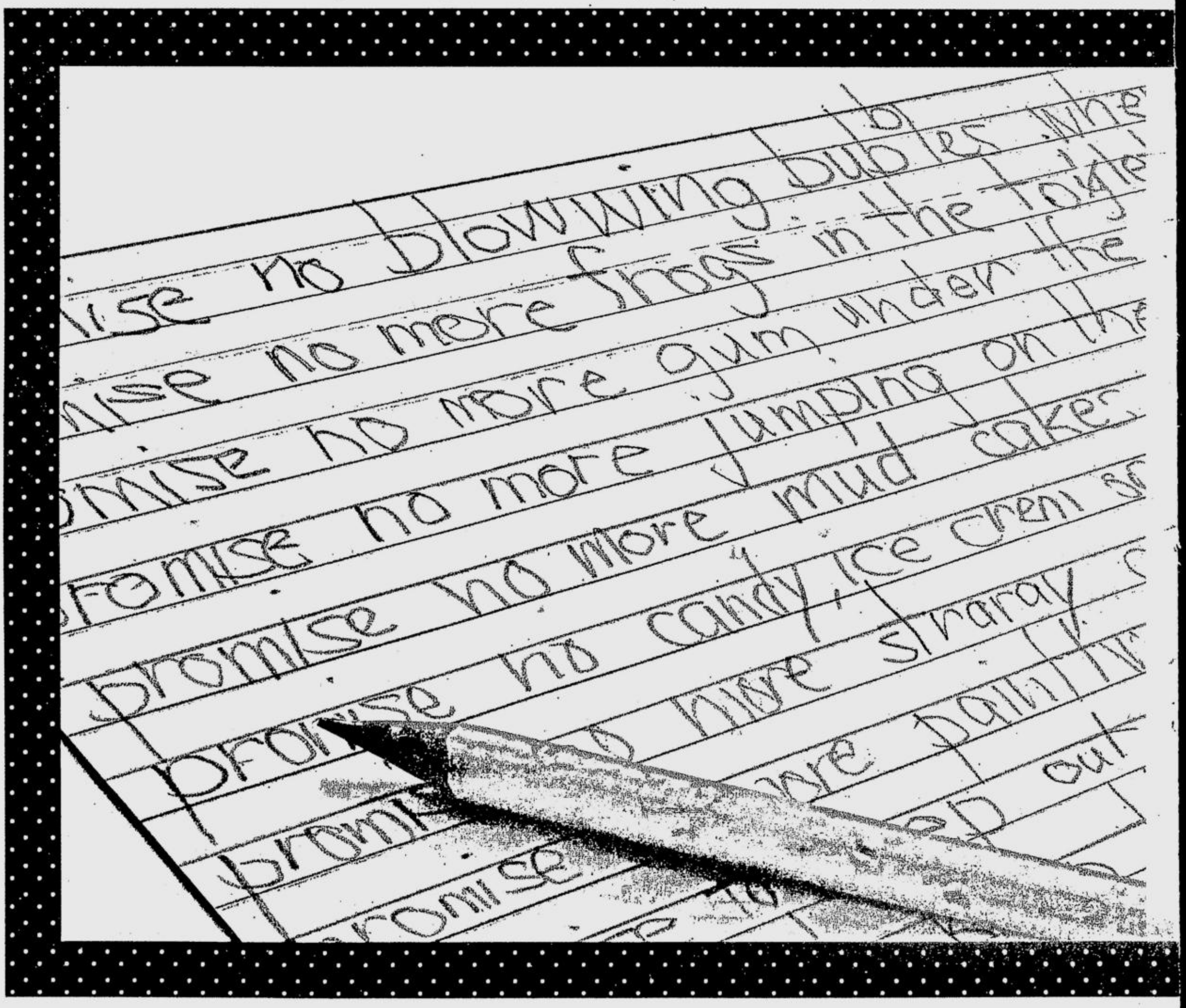
Madonna promises a show like no other. Among the stunts packaged in "The Drowned World Tour" is one wherein Madonna and three dancers literally fly through the air *ala* Peter Pan and Tinkerbell. And to let you in on a surprise, Madonna has promised to play the guitar live (having studied it extensively for months). The icon will use a Gibson Les Paul guitar on "Candy Perfume Girl" and strum a nylon-classical for "La Isla Bonita."

Regarding the technical aspects of the tour, it will feature state of the art technology. Featuring the biggest number of speakers any tour has ever utilized, with crystal-clear digital sound quality, Madonna aims to create "the 'marriage' of a recording studio and flawless live quality sound in a concert setting."

To do this, Madonna has almost 100 tons of equipment rolled in from city to city. Packed in 1500 trunks, the equipment is so heavy that it takes two 747 jumbo jets to fly the equipment, and eight trucks to bring the equipment to each venue. So that fans seated at the back won't strain to catch her image, there will be four large video screens onstage and two in-house screens for close-up viewing.

Onstage, Madonna will perform with 10 dancers she personally selected, and two back-up singers. The major artist that she is, no opening act, intermission and encore are expected. So if you happen to be anywhere near her show's venues, maybe you can see and hear the Queen of Pop in one of her rare acts. That is, if you happen to know a scalper—because tickets have been sold-out for months!

THE MATERIAL One has come up with a new musical showcase.



'Magnificat' performed anew at Manila Cathedral tonight

"MAGNIFICAT." The Philippines' longest- running religious musical.

THE INTRAMUROS Evenings Performing Arts Series presents the Philippines' longest-running religious musical "Magnificat" today, Saturday, 6:30 p.m. at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, Intramuros.

The musical on the life of the Virgin Mary is written and directed by Nestor U. Torre, with Ryan Cayabyab as composer and musical director. The cast includes Pinky Marquez, Bodgie Pascua, Andy Bais, Rito Asilo, Jingle Buena, Albert Jimenez, Arlene Borja, Sheila Asuncion, Joel Villaflor, Daryl Reyes, Niña, Paul Marica and Ana Feleo.

"Magnificat" was born out of Torre's desire to help spread love for Jesus and Mary. After spending two years writing the libretto, he handed it to Cayabyab, who wrote the music for another two years.

Intramuros Evenings is a public service presentation of the Department of Tourism led by Sec. Richard J. Gordon, its attached agency Intramuros Administration headed by Dominador Ferrer Jr., and the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral under Msgr. Hernando Coronel. Admission is free. For inquiries call tel. 5272961 or 5273138.

Adul de Leon was an original

(From page C6)

Ticklish situation

Another old friend, Etta Pargas Rosales of Akbayan, tried to help me in the ticklish situation. I couldn't be too hard-sell; neither did I want to be liberal in my approach. Probably a woman-to-woman discussion would be better, I thought. Then, almost overnight Adul was deeply involved in women's issues and the premiere feminist group Gabriela. Before long she was doing a balancing act—acting in selected roles for Peta and the late Rolando Tinio at the CCP while doing her work for the women's groups.

Adul de Leon continued to be an original, often disagreeing with standard positions taken by the groups she worked with, but she remained dedicated to women's causes until the last few months of her life in 1990, when she became very ill with cancer.

She maintained herself with great poise to the end. She did not want to be pitied but instead was concerned that her friends would not suffer at the sight of her in acute pain. Of course, I empathized with her pain because I saw her try to take it all in. She had become so emaciated. Other friends felt as badly but never as much as when she finally passed away leaving behind her young daughter, and a distinct void in the progressive women's movement and in Philippine Theatre.

When I informed Lino that Adul had passed away, he remained still for a while and then continued with what he was doing without saying a word. I knew there must have been many flashbacks. After all, by then we had been friends for 43 years. That's a lifetime!

I often wondered what it was that had so alienated one from the other at that point of their lives. They had too much of a shared past for all those good years to be swept under the rug, so to speak.

Headstrong

Neither of them ever clarified it for me. I guess, they realized I would be caught in the middle. I can only attribute it to the fact that they were two headstrong, principled originals who often stuck to their guns, no matter the consequences.

However, not too long after Adul passed away, Lino died in that tragic car accident on East ave.

Adul was such an original I still remember her with clarity, almost 11 years after her demise. The flashbacks include UP Dramatic Club events, *banca* rides off the Luneta breakwater in the wee hours of the morning, swims in murky Manila Bay, discussions, spats, reconciliations, politics and eventual comradeship.

I remember a sardonic, life-loving, fiercely individual original whose penchant for the perfect squelch was legendary, but whose intelligence, insight and sensitivity made any encounter with her a meaningful one.

Needless to say, I miss Adul's strong presence. I also miss her willfulness and her originality, as well as the unguarded warmth she exuded when she was among friends she trusted—and, yes, loved.

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Unrequited love, intrigue and war in classical music

BY RITO P. ASILO

AFTER a night in the theater, inspired by the beautifully staged Filipino version of William Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale," directed by Dulaang UP artistic director Jose Estrella, we felt it was appropriate to spend some time listening to dzFE 98.7, The Master's Touch.

Emotional state

In the past, we tuned in to dzFE for its occasional show tunes that don't get airtime in pop music-based radio stations. This time, we listened to classical musicians noted for their mostly romantic tastes. The vastness of radio allows us to unwind through musical forms and program formats that suit the kind of emotional state we are in when we turn it on.

Deeply soothing voice-overs, embellished by heavy echoes and reverbs, introduced the songs. Ugh! We are really soaked in stereotypes. No wonder the younger generation describes classical music as "*nakakaantok*." The classics were not created to induce sleep on listeners!

We listened, in succession, to Franz Liszt's "Sonata in B minor"; Edward Elgar's flamenco-flavored "Sevillana" waltz, which sounded like it belonged to Andrew Lloyd Webber's score for "A Little Night Music"; Johannes Brahm's dramatic "Piano Concerto #2 in B minor," and Frederic Chopin's "Allegro in Polonaise in C minor".

Musical gems

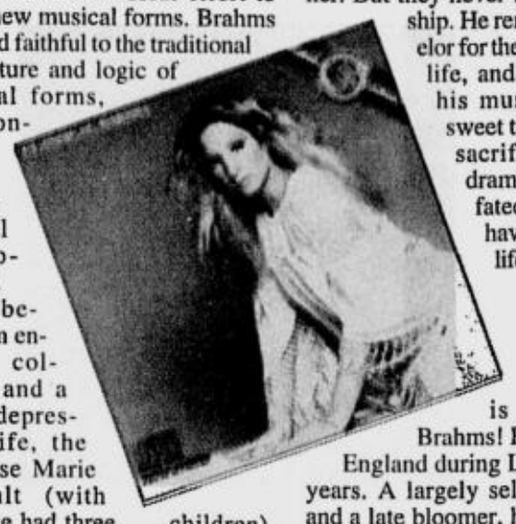
Heavenly, romantic music. But behind these musical gems were people, geniuses, who led very colorful lives, not unlike those led by our current pop stars. The difference was that these musicians didn't have publicists to cover up their human frailties and indiscretions. Some of them lived very dark lives that would shock even the most jaded cynics today.

Arguably the greatest pianist of all time, outplaying such greats as Chopin and Malberg, Hungarian-born Franz Liszt was a child prodigy at age 6. But his fame was plagued by intrigue throughout his lifetime. He was regarded as a womanizer and a "feather ruffler" in the age of Romantic music.

He coined the term "piano recital," as he was prone to performing demanding virtuoso pieces that only he could play, which gave his listeners excitement.

Glitter

The glitter, of course, offended the intellectuals, which included German composer Brahms, himself a musical virtuoso considered to be one of the greatest symphonists to emerge after Beethoven. Brahms published "Manifesto" to attack Liszt in an unsuccessful effort to thwart new musical forms. Brahms remained faithful to the traditional architecture and logic of classical forms, and considered Liszt a "radical neo-Romantic".



But between an envious colleague and a manic-depressive wife, the Comtesse Marie d'Agoult (with whom he had three children), Franz Liszt couldn't have cared less.

Brahms, on the other hand, composed major works in all forms, except the opera. As a teenager, he began playing piano in tough taverns to supplement his humble income. He was later introduced to Schumann, who was charmed by his talent and later wrote a laudatory article about this "coming genius in German music."

He befriended Schumann and his wife, Clara. When Schumann deteriorated from mental illness, Brahms supported Clara and fell in love with her. But they never had a relationship. He remained a bachelor for the duration of his life, and this mirrored his music—a bittersweet tale of love and sacrifice that is as dramatic as any ill-fated love story we have known in our lifetime.

Twilight years

Edward Elgar's music is similar to Brahms! He was born in England during Liszt's twilight years. A largely self-taught artist and a late bloomer, he was considered a "provincial composer" until the outstanding success of "The Enigma Variations," when he was 42. From then on, his fame spread so fast so that by the outbreak of World War I, he had become the most celebrated living British composer of his time.

He and his wife eventually settled in rural Sussex, and this greatly influenced his music. After long walks in the woods, he would come home and play the piano by the fireplace, as his wife listened.

"CLASSICAL BARBRA." Esoteric but laudable project.

His wife would later describe these musical moments as "A quiet rapture, tinged with nostalgia; a gentle music that describes sitting by the stream, or idly playing with a straw in high summer."

A Polish-born musician with French lineage, Chopin showed prodigious musical abilities at age 6, when he started creating original musical pieces. As a teenager, he was sent to Vienna, the unquestioned center of music at that time, but went back to Poland when war was about to break between Poland and Russia.

Silver goblet

His friends gave him a silver goblet filled with Polish soil when his family ordered him to leave Poland to escape war. And he was never able to return.

Upon his death in Paris at age 39, he asked that the "Polish soil" in his goblet be sprinkled over his grave.

As footnote to all these great musical minds, a dedicated musical parentage seemed to offer great influence on their sons. Liszt's father was a cello player who taught him piano; Elgar's father brought him a piano at a very young age; Brahm's

UNREQUITED/P.C7

Adul de Leon was an original

BY BEHN CERVANTES

(Conclusion)

LINO loved to recount stories of goings-on during the shooting of "Walls of Hell" (*aka* "Intramuros") that starred Jock Mahoney, a rather skinny actor who played Tarzan, and Fernando Poe Jr., already the Numero Uno Pinoy star.

There was also a time he said he saw the handsome but balding John Saxon secretly applying Black Tancho Tique on sparse areas of his scalp that needed extra hair for a more youthful appearance.

Pathetic sight

I remember he thought that was such a pathetic sight while Adul laughed the incident away as part of life. I empathized with John because by then I knew my own hairline was bound to recede in due time.

DE LEON. Dedicated to women's causes.

Adul and Lino became really close during that period, confiding personal problems and needs to each other. I think, after a while, they became too close for comfort because Adul was soon bossing Lino around, a state of affairs that Lino resented.

Just before Lino became a proselytizing Mormon in Hawaii and San Francisco, there was some distancing between the two. However, when Lino returned from the windy city, I made him join Peta. I recruited Adul to star with another old friend, Joonee Gamboa, in "The Swamp Dwellers" by Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinke for a Peta Theater Festival.

The two were great in the African play, manifesting rapport of a different kind, at a distinctive level. When Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" was cast, Lino and I made sure the two were in the cast. We even got Mimi Pintoy to join the group. Yes, it was hail, hail the gang's all here.

By this time, Adul had a daughter named Karla. She was an independent single mom. She had worked in different companies but almost always encountered problems with men due to her assertive personality.

When she decided to dedicate herself to theater, she and Joonee formed a group of their own that based itself in the Pantranco area of Heroes' Hills. They were strict mentors and their young products were a disciplined and serious group.

By the mid-'70s, I was courting the two to join activist groups. In the beginning, they were content with reading some nationalist poems for special occasions. It was another thing to make them join anti-government organizations.

The first time I got all my friends together was to perform meaningful poems for the launching of Mapco (Movement to Abolish the Presidential Commitment Order) at the Philippine Columbian Club on Quirino ave.

Opposition

Mapco quickly was changed to Mapda (Movement to Abolish the Preventive Detention Arrest) by the Marcos government when the opposition led by the likes of Father Art Balagat, Chino Roces, Lorenzo Tañada, Nini Quezon Avanceña, Dick Powel, Nita Feria and Sr. Christine Tan succeeded in winning public support.

In fact, the keynote speaker was Sen. Jovito Salonga who had just returned from the United States. Sedfrey Ordoñez, his law partner, introduced him in salutary terms. It was also a wonderful reunion of my friends of many years.

Adul, along with Lino, Joonee, Robert Arevalo and NUT, read poems by Amado V. Hernandez and other patriotic writers. I really felt fulfilled because on that occasion I finally succeeded in getting my friends together on one stage to espouse the same principles I had.

Lino and I had gone our separate ways years before with some amount of rancor, but were reunited by the legitimacy of our political beliefs. Adul was hedging for sometime. She was demanding answers. She presented many why's and wherefore's about activist principles and forms of action. When I held d.g.'s (discussion groups) in my Cubao apartment, she invariably would declare, "Let me think it over" when I assigned her tasks that included underground work. She was a single mom, after all.

ADUL/ P. C5

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Old and new numbers in Dolphy's TV special

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

KING comic Dolphy's birthday special last Sunday was an interesting mix of new and old numbers designed to celebrate his 40 years on television. While the veteran star is to be commended for trying to be perky despite his 73 years, the special's old numbers served to prove the onus of the passing decades.

Retrospective

In those retrospective musical-comedy numbers, Dolphy was relatively trim and sassy, and his fabled comic timing was as slick as a whistle.

Nowhere was this more triumphantly evident than in the long musical dramatic-comic medley involving Dolphy and Kuh Ledesma in a Frankie-and-Johnny type of speakeasy melodrama, complete with guns firing and dying scenes.

As the number perkily went from one song excerpt to the next, Dolphy changed tempo and style to suit the medley's development, and his inventiveness and involvement were a pleasure to behold.

Janitor

In another outstanding piece, Dolphy played a janitor who, after office hours, pretended to be the boss, scolding imaginary employees to the hectic beat of the background music.

DOLPHY dons a nun's habit in one of his fantasy-comedy starrers.

Not only did he visually keep up with the varied musical riffs and tics, but he also made the number build up to a satisfying climax before the real boss returned and made the janitor wake up to his sad reality.

In both numbers, Dolphy showed why he has lorded it over the comedy scene for decades: Aside from his keen timing, he pokes fun at himself, essays a wide range of characters, and keeps up with the times.

Despite these innate gifts, however, Dolphy today is slower and less prone to bursts of inspiration. Thus, the new numbers in last Sunday's special were less exciting than his old routines.

Commercial spoof

Dolphy danced and sang with his beloved Zsa Zsa, did a commercial spoof with Klaudia Koronel and performed with Jolina Magdangal. These numbers had their own charm, but they paled in comparison to the inspired madness of old.

Also a bit of a letdown was the fact that so many of the special's numbers were inspired by Broadway production pieces, like the Judy Garland hobo routine that Dolphy did with a very young Sharon Cuneta, some 15 years and 30 pounds ago.

This is a throwback to the sad, old "colonial mentality" days when "Broadway" was regarded as the apex of thespic and musical achievement in these parts. Even more sadly, we end up realizing that colonial attitude is still very much with us, to this day.

Best years

Thus, while the Dolphy special simply meant to honor the veteran comic and reminisce about his best years on television, it also showed that old entertainment and pop-cultural mindsets die hard in these parts, making the freshness of our future prospects more than slightly suspect.

But we also have to remind ourselves that, aside from his many foreign inspirations and derivations, Dolphy did come up with a number of homegrown performing styles and signature characters. These include his translation routines and take-offs on commercials, as well as his Everyman "*wa*-class" character, John Purruntong.

Yes, in some ways Dolphy has been a hostage of his times, but he's also freed himself from that comfortable bondage from time to time. It is those bursts of creative freedom of his that we choose to remember, and to celebrate.

THE COMEDY King in a publicity shot, in "Markova" and in "Facifica Falayfay."

Unrequited . . .

(From page C6)

father was a double bass player; and Chopin's mother taught him how to play the piano.

Classical music may not be that popular these days but it is the kind of music that has stood the test of time. Even Barbra Streisand, the ultimate diva of songs, came up with an album of classical music, 1976's "Classical Barbra," where she essayed an impressive line-up of classics, including Schumann's "Mondnacht," Debussy's "Beau Soir" and Handel's "Dank Sei Dir, Herr," our personal favorite.

Esoteric

The 10-track compilation was an esoteric but laudable project for La Streisand that must have been a stretch for her usual audience. It boasted of songs sung in German, French, Latin, Italian and English. What an artistic coup that was for Columbia Records!

While the performance was no mean feat for Streisand, achieving what no one has managed was not something new to her. In fact, the Guiness Book of World Records call her "the most versatile performer in the world," with two Oscars (Best Actress for 1968's "Funny Girl," Best Song for "Evergreen," the theme from 1976's "A Star is Born"), five Emmies, seven Grammies, seven Golden Globes and a special Tony for 'Broadway Actress of the Decade' in the '70s!

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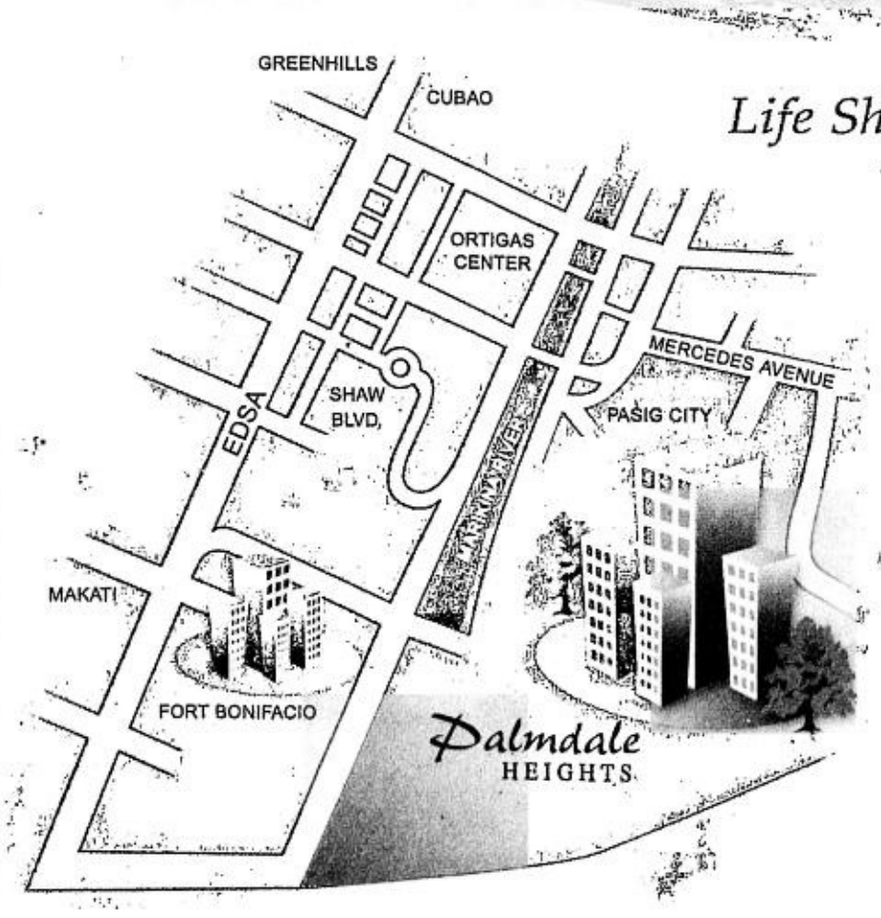

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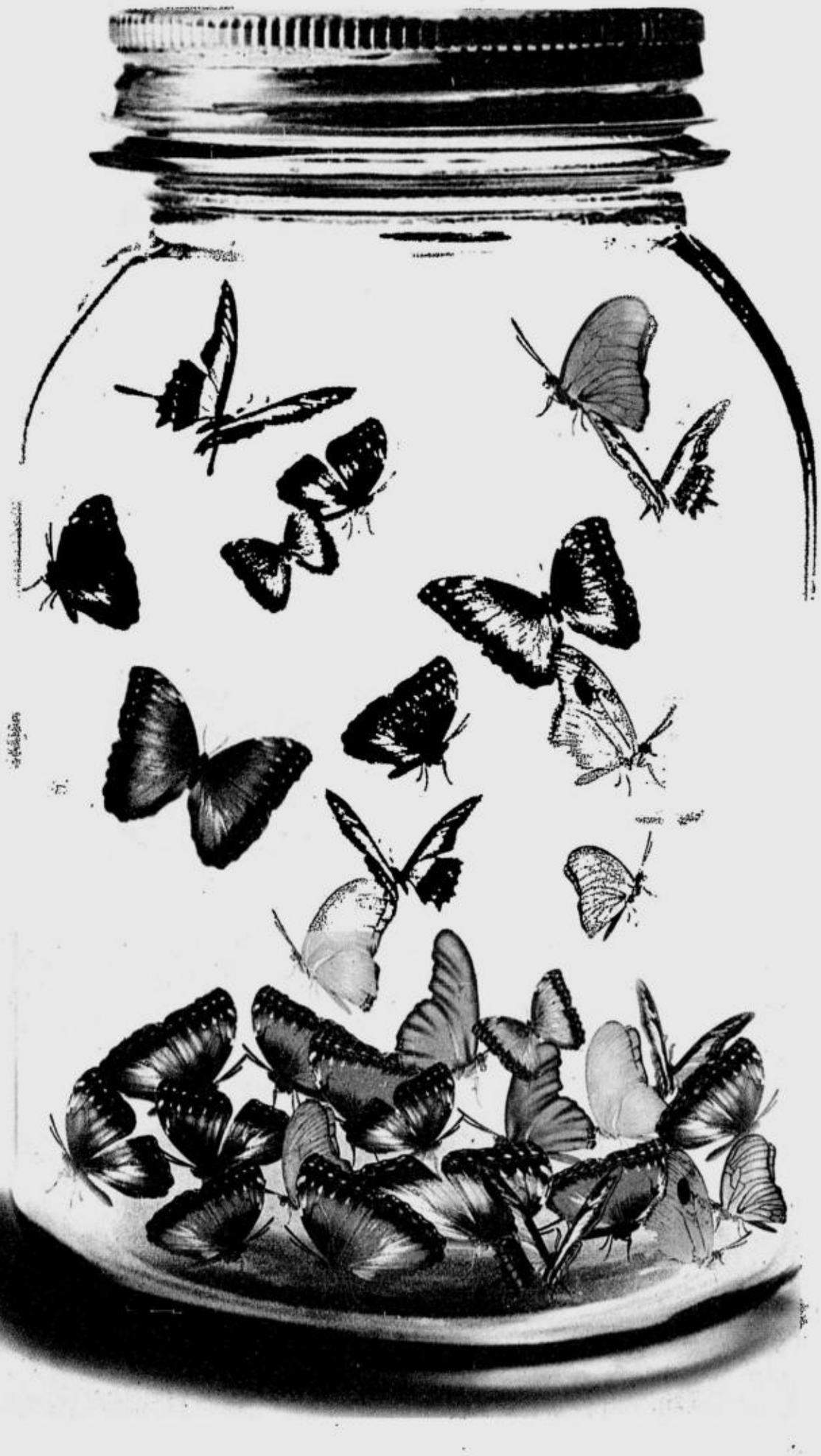

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Saturday SPECIAL

Neil Diamond strikes a solitary 'Chord'

BY DEAN GOODMAN

LOS ANGELES—Neil Diamond has been a superstar for most of his life, but he still has to fight his record label over the new album he has toiled on for a year.

With "Three Chord Opera," set for release in North America, Columbia Records' plans for its international launch seemed a little fuzzy when Diamond sat down for an interview recently.

DIAMOND. Large overseas audience.

Short shrift

"Overseas it's getting short shrift and it's really pissing me off," said Diamond, who has sold 115 million records during a 35-year career, the last 28 of them at Columbia.

Sitting in the darkened console room of his recording studio—where a sign declares, "A perky tempo is a happy tempo!"—he recalled yelling at his manager on the phone just 15 minutes earlier, directing him to yell at label executives.

"I do have a large audience overseas, and I want to continue to be an international artist. I let my people know very clearly today what my feelings were."

A Columbia spokeswoman later said: "By no means are we short-changing Neil Diamond. He's very important to Columbia Records."

The album will be released in Europe on Sept. 3, hopefully to coincide with TV appearances Diamond will make there. It will be released in Australia on Aug. 13.

Big step

Confrontation is a big step for Diamond, who has carved out a career by writing songs with deeply personal sentiments he says he would be too embarrassed to say to someone's face.

Indeed, puffing away on a "legal cheapo" cigar, he presents a study of tranquillity, at age 60, forever slender in blue jeans. As he sings in one of his new songs, "Everyone's got rainy days, it isn't so much if but when."

By his own admission, Diamond has enjoyed more than his fair share of sunny days: 13 songs in the US top 10, including three chart-toppers, "Cracklin' Rosie," "Song Sung Blue" and "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" (a duet with Barbra Streisand); a Grammy Award for his "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" soundtrack; and a prolific career as a live performer that has led to some saying he is the biggest solo touring act of the 1990s.

Not retiring

Off the road since a New Year's Eve concert in 1999, Diamond will begin another North American tour in September. He has no retirement plans. When he is not on the road, he is writing songs. It can be a lonely life for a "Solitary Man" who rues his own company, and would rather hear people laughing at his self-deprecating jokes than applauding his songs.

"Three Chord Opera" marks the first album written and composed solely by Diamond since 1974's "Serenade." Virtually every track on his previous album, 1996's country-flavored "Tennessee Moon" was co-written with someone else.

The new album, produced by Peter Asher and Alan Lindgren, was a year in the making at Diamond's nondescript ArchAngel re-

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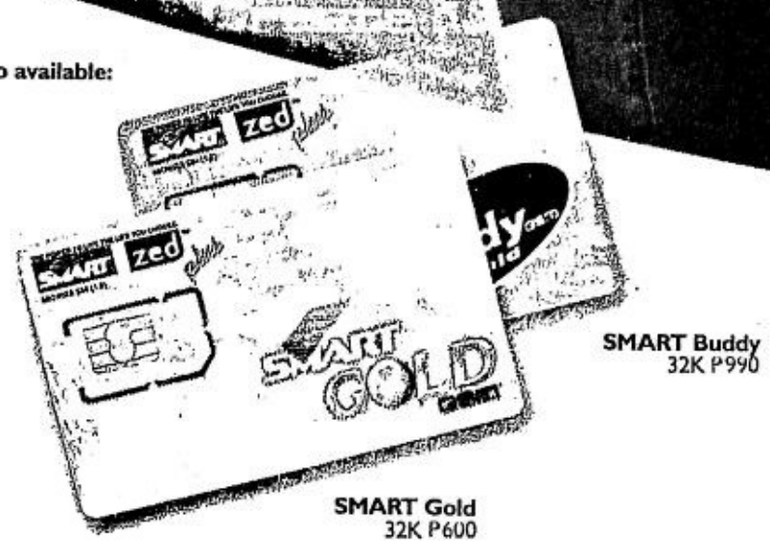

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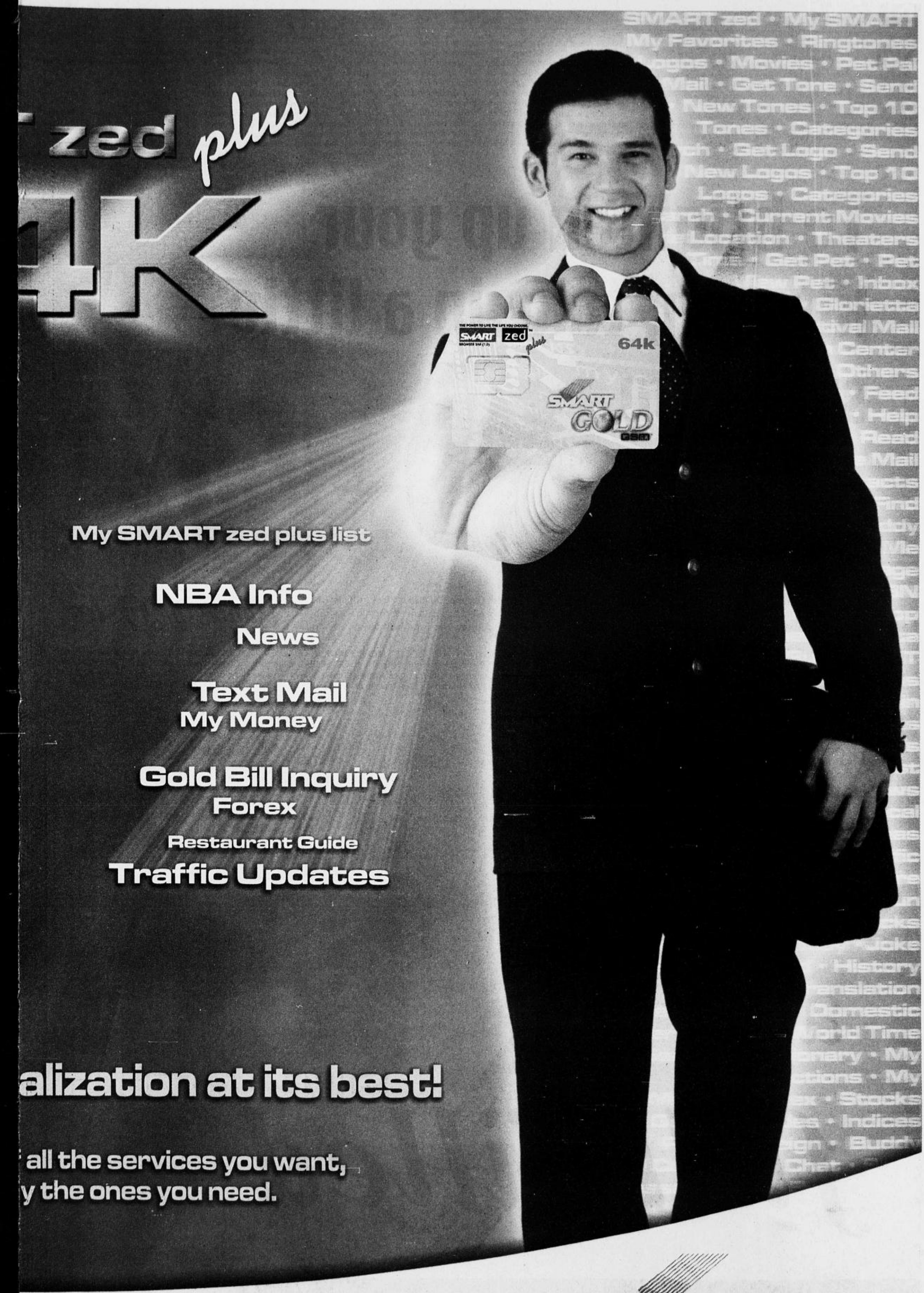

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Neil . . . (From page D1)

cording studio on a busy street near Beverly Hills.

"There was no sprinting involved in this album. It was a day-by-day battle," Diamond said.

Reflective

He termed the finished work "reflective," relating to past events in his life rather than things touching on his future.

In real life, the twice-divorced Diamond has been dating a thirtysomething marketing executive for the past few years. He describes her as "dazzling" but is disinclined to walk down the aisle again. He has two adult children from each of his marriages, and three grandchildren, one of whom is serenaded on the new album in "Elijah's Song."

The album begins on a bleak note with "I Haven't Sung This Song In Years," a tune about irrevocably lost love that ranks as one of the darkest songs he has ever written. But things eventually pick up with such tracks as the escapist "Baby Let's Drive" and the exuberant "At The Movies."

"I don't like all of the music to be serious and deadly. I try to keep some humor in it, and some lightness."

The joyful sentiment of "At the Movies" may not necessarily be shared by moviegoers who suffered through the recent comedy "Saving Silverman," a critically reviled film partly redeemed by a Diamond cameo. He says he did it for his fans, and he credits the film with motivating him to write songs. Otherwise he might have delayed his latest album for a year or two.

Gospel road

Diamond also travels down the gospel road with "Mission of Love" and "Leave A Little Room For God." A fairly observant Jew who attends synagogue "on the serious holidays," Diamond has previously touched on spiritual themes in such songs as "Kentucky Woman," "Holly Holy" and "Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show."

"I've always accepted some kind of deity, especially as a songwriter. There's a mystery to writing, and you don't really know where most of it comes from. You like to think that it's something you created, but secretly you know that you had some kind of help, or somebody gave this to you." *Reuters*

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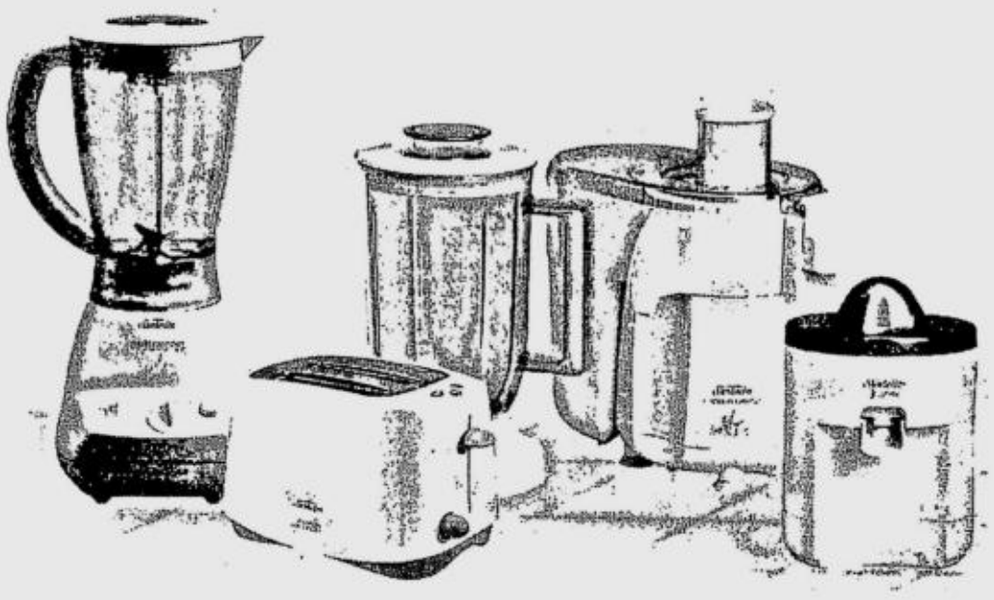

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SaturdaySPECIAL

Thora Birch turns in an exceptional performance in 'Ghost World'

BY DAVID GERMAIN

LOS ANGELES—How nice. How original. How welcome. A movie about teen-agers with vivid, three-dimensional characters— and not a ravaged pie in sight!

Teen angst

With sly, deadpan humor, "Ghost World" dissects that thing called teen angst, and that other thing called American pop culture, in a slow build to the unspoken, unanswered question, "So we're living like this because . . . ?"

Based on Daniel Clowes' cult comic, "Ghost World" is one of the most unusual films inspired by the pulp pages of illustrated narratives. No capes. No crusaders. No superheroes. No heroes, period.

Just one smart, cynical but clueless girl, her somewhat more sensible pal, a forlorn man who substitutes inanimate memorabilia for human connections, and a colorful mix of supporting players.

Their world is bright yet sterile, diverting yet dour. The characters of "Ghost World" move through an urban landscape of stark ennui, some bemoaning the erosion of diversity in favor of corporate-franchise uniformity, others oblivious to it.

Wry commentary

As with his enthralling documentary "Crumb," director Terry Zwigoff launches "Ghost World" from a deeply personal, idiosyncratic base to a wry commen- individuality vs. uplacency.

BIRCH. Breakthrough stellar performance.

a Birch, building on ceptional perfor- as Kevin Spacey's aughter in "Ameri- auty," delivers a rough stellar per- ce as Enid, a mal- hrilled to graduate h school but aim- s about her future.

Unable to commit to a job, Enid meanders through a summer of listlessness.

The open-ended nclusion of "Ghost orld" will bother viegoers who need sure. But the film es deep questions, Zwigoff's unwillness to provide an- is a refreshing re- n of life.

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Meteor impact site in Diablo Canyon

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SMART
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What women like about Diet

BY JOCELYN VALLE

NO, we're talking about the one thing that women grudgingly resort to when they want to lose weight. Instead, Diet, or Diether Ocampo, entices us to take a bite of pizza (with extra cheese at that!).

Revelations

Ladies, even dieters, don't seem to mind. They adore him!

But what do women really like about Diet? We've asked some of them and here's what they think—plus some revelations from the matinee idol himself:

"He's a hunk! Bodylicious!" —*Mae of Marikina City*

"Body."—*Maricris of Quezon City*

"Body!"—*Naomi Ugut of Caloocan City*

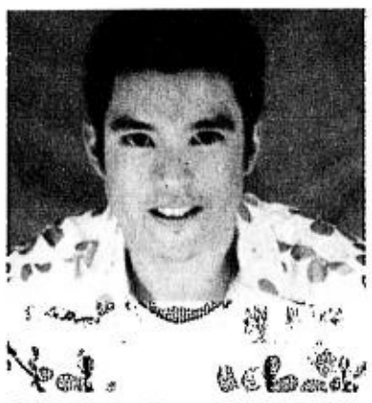
"Physically fit *siya. Maganda ang katawan niya ngayon.*"—*Mia of Caloocan City*

Grinning, Diether relates that he used to be skinny, weighing only about 130 lbs. He started paying attention to his body three years ago in preparation for his first young-adult role in "Soltera," opposite Maricel Soriano.

With the help of one of his friends who's a former Mr. Universe, Diether was able to attain his desired physique. (At 150 lbs., he's still underweight for his 5'10-frame.)

Health buff

"I work out to feel happy, too," he shares, adding that he works out three to four times a week. (Tip: Diether wants his girl to also be a health buff. It would be



OCAMPO. Eats at least five times a day!

nice to work out with the object of your affection, he smiles.)

The 25-year-old movie-TV actor's only problem is his hectic schedule. He tapes twice a week for his afternoon soap, "Recuerdo de Amor," and co-hosts the Sunday variety show, "Asap."

His movie with Rosanna Roces, Star Cinema's "La Vida Rosa," will hit theaters soon. He's also been busy singing, dancing and taking his shirt off onstage with his fellow "Hunks"—Jericho Rosales, Piolo Pascual, Carlos Agassi and Bernard Palanca. Their sexy spot number on "Asap" has spun off into a two-hour show, and they will conquer Music Museum anew this month.

Diether has gone back to school, majoring in film at the UP College of Mass Communications.

He's not Superman so he inevitably gets worn-out. When that happens, Diether skips his gym sked and spends the rest of the day relaxing, instead.

No greasy food

Diet is not into dieting. In fact, he eats at least five times daily! "*Mas maraming nabu-burn na fat kapag mas maraming kinakain,*" he points out. "I just stay away from greasy food."

"*Katawan siguro at saka* face: *maaliwalas.*"—*Frances Tancuan of Cavite City*

A lot of people have the same comment about his face, observes Diether. He discloses that he doesn't have a luxurious facial regimen. "I use the Zui skin care products of Bench," the image model exclaims.

He adds that he seldom goes to the dermatologist, usually just to unclog his pores of irritants caused by make-up. What he'd love to do frequently is to sleep. "Seven to eight hours *sana,*" he says, sighing.

"*Maputi siya.*"—*Tati Fernandez of Caloocan City*

The reason: Diether has Chinese blood.

"*Mukha siyang mabango!*"—*Cherryl Ortega of Marikina City*

Diether has only one dimple and it's on his left cheek.

He believes that "tidiness is next to godliness." But he's not overdoing it, taking only two showers daily. He tells us that he uses Bench's scents. Kenzo perfume, likewise.

"'*Yung* teeth *niya parang* bunny and he's not conscious of his looks. '*Yun bang 'di siya pa-pogi.*'"—*Alia Bangui of Cogeo, Rizal*

When he was a child, Diether recalls, he used to be called "bugs" because of his big front teeth. Upon the suggestion of a relative, he consulted an orthodontist and started wearing braces.

Diether confirms that he's not conscious of his looks—except for his hair, which, he tells us, takes him half an hour to fix.

"*Matangkad siya pero mukhang bata.* Cute, business-minded. '*Di playboy dahil kay* LJ Moreno *lang na-link. Mabait na anak.*"—*Venus Tarroja of Mandaluyong City*

Diether's family owns and runs several clinics and drugstores in Cavite City. Despite having had a disappointing first business venture, Diether is determined to try his luck again—"Maybe open another restaurant or invest in a fitness club," he reveals.

Promise

When he was six years old, Diether's dad passed away and, being the eldest, he has since vowed to take care of his mom, sister and brother. (He also has a half-sister, who's the youngest in their brood.) He has kept that promise to this day.

Diether admits to being close to his mom. He pampers her as well as his siblings. But Diether also knows when to put his foot down. When his brother expressed his desire to enter show biz, Diether advised him to concentrate on his studies, instead.

'Radyo' is Jeffrey Quizon's movie

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

"RADYO," which is scheduled to be shown next week, is being hyped as "another blockbuster movie from Rufa Mae Quinto." After seeing the film, we have to disagree. This is Jeffrey Quizon's movie.

Radio announcer

The sexy actress plays a radio announcer who turns a repressed lovestruck department store salesman (Jeffrey Quizon) into a crazed killer without her realizing it. Jeffrey goes on a killing spree but we all know that he will eventually stalk Rufa Mae and get his comeuppance before the last fade-out.

Unlike "The Bone Collector" where Angelina Jolie takes the limelight as a policewoman who helps Denzel Washington track down the serial killer, "Radyo" doesn't give Rufa Mae much to do except try to be funny in front of the microphone. This works just fine before Jeffrey starts killing off his victims, at which point we become more interested in him than in Rufa Mae, whose antics have become repetitive.

Rufa Mae should know that when the identity of the serial killer is known ahead of time, as in "The Watcher" starring Keanu Reeves, and the role of the bad guy is played by a scene-stealer like Jeffrey, she stands virtually no chance of making this movie her own.

Rufa Mae should make more movies like "Booba" where she displayed three of her outstanding assets—comedy and her twin peaks. In this movie, the sexy star doesn't get the same skin exposure that Joyce Jimenez and Rica Peralejo got in "Balahibong Pusa" which "Radyo's" director, Yam Laranas, also megged.

We do get a fleeting breast exposure shot of Rufa Mae, but that's no fun at all for the voyeurs in the audience. There is a bedroom scene featuring the serial killer and a prostitute, but again Yam holds back on nudity and sex.

Viewer's imagination

Even the obligatory slaughter scenes are merely suggested and there's not much blood for a movie about a serial killer. The violence is left to the viewer's imagination and that is even more bloodcurdling, especially when it comes to the twist at the end.

The good news, however, is that "Radyo" is better-made than "Balahibong Pusa" and contains several comic touches that Laranas manages to insert in between the killings. His skillful use of the camera (he is also the film's cinematographer) captures the culture of the radio talk show.

QUIZON. Effectively steals the film from Rufa Mae.

His script contains character studies that are well crafted: the seminarian (Ronnie Lazaro) who's in love with a woman; the security guard who wants to be a DJ; the beanpole and the "*unano,*" who are employees in the radio station. The only character who is badly drawn is the police detective (Bojo Molina).

The plot is similar to many serial killer movies and contains touches taken from "The Bone Collector" and "Silence of the Lambs," making it quite predictable. However, Laranas manages to put in interesting sequences that keep the moviegoers glued to their seats.

Finally, we must make mention of Jeffrey Quizon's performance, which dominates the whole movie. In "Markova," the actor played the oppressed younger Markova who, however, didn't get back at his oppressors. In "Radyo," he's also oppressed but this time, he gets back at his tormentors—with a vengeance.

Rejection

When Rufa Mae fails to play his requested song, Jeffrey's fragile mind snaps. More so when he is rejected by his ladylove—that's when the killing begins.

Jeffrey underplays the killer's madness and concentrates on portraying his character as a methodical killer out for revenge. There's none of the typical mad killer look and the maniacal laughter. Instead, the killer comes off as an aggrieved person out to avenge the wrong done against him.

"Radyo" has several implausible premises but it introduces new approaches in the making of a serial-killer movie and deserves to be viewed.

George Sison goes from 'wordsplay' to 'swordsplay'

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LATE last Sunday night on Channel 7, New Thought guru George Sison hosted the TV special, "Will Your Fortune (in the Game of Life)." The title is obviously a play on the popular American game show, "Wheel of Fortune," and is "very George Sison," because George loves to play with words.

New meanings

But, as people who've known George for years can tell you, his "wordsplay" is actually a clever "swordsplay" of sorts, because the new meanings that he sees in words or combinations of syllables are soon put to pointed use in his readings of people's personalities or prospects.

This was frequently evident during the special, which turned out to be not a game show at all, but a series of encounters with people whose lives were changed in many ways after they started to follow George's how-to's in the realms of health, wealth, love and success.

For instance, when a female friend was unable to get pregnant after years of trying, George urged her to take the radical step of *pretending* to be pregnant by wearing a maternity dress and shopping for baby clothes!

SISON. Goals have to be specific in order for them to be realized.

The principle of suggestion, imaging and imprinting is at work here, of course, and the technique works because dreams and goals have to be specific in order for them to be realized.

Some may regard this as silly, facile and shallow, but the would-be mother decided to follow George's advice to the letter, soon found herself *really* pregnant, and eventually gave birth to her much-longed-for child.

Did the imaging technique work? Was her pregnancy the result of another procedure that she'd initiated before she talked to George? Was it just a coincidence? The happy mother ticks off the first option with no doubt at all in the efficacy of autosuggestion.

House

Ditto for actor Juan Rodrigo, who "visualized" the house he wanted to have, and got it in due course. He believes that, without the visualization, the house would have remained a dream to this day.

What about the taxi driver whose income increased exponentially when, following George's advice, he stopped treating his passengers shabbily and ceased to complain about the traffic?

We hope that all the mean-spirited taxi drivers *we've* encountered were watching the special last Sunday night, so that they too would discover that providing good service is good business!

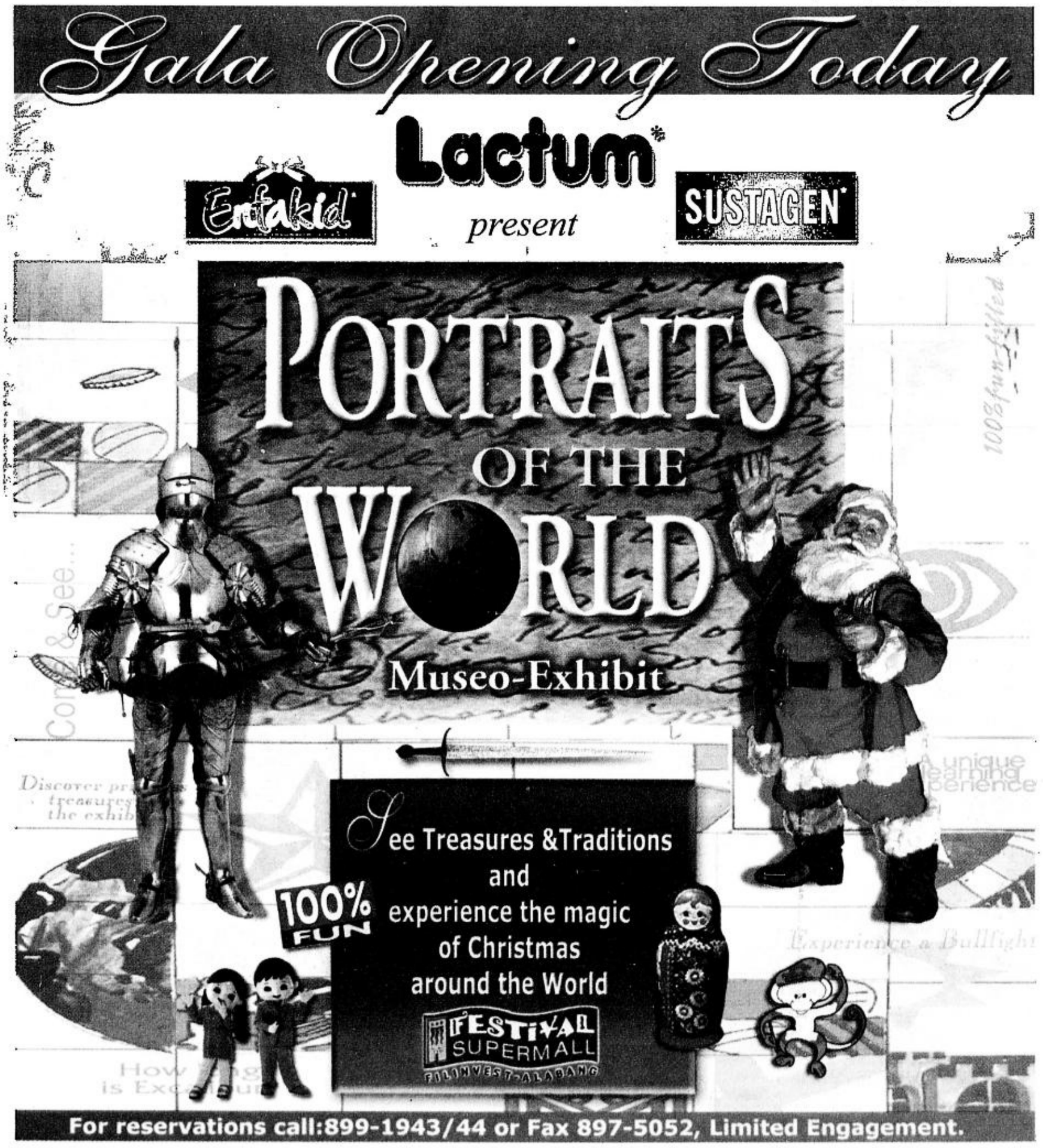
In the course of the special, George also shared some thoughts on the roots of illness that some people may benefit from.

In his view, illnesses are the result or equivalent of specific mental and emotional states. If those conditions or predispositions are changed, the illnesses could be healed.

Again, some people may find this too misleadingly, even dangerously facile, so more thought and discussion is needed than what a single TV special can offer. The important thing is, George has gotten the discussion started.

If, as envisioned, the TV special will eventually become a monthly series of shows, George could next invite people (doctors, clergy) who disagree with him, so viewers can get a more rounded view of this life-affirming and life-changing thesis.

In the meantime, nice start, George, congrats on finally going mainstream—and, boy, do you look young on TV! What's your secret? Maybe you could do a show on *that!*



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Speaker De Venecia's master plan

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

"LET'S Get This Nation Moving—Again." This is the mantra of the new Speaker of the House of Representatives, Jose de Venecia.

Task

In Speaker De Venecia's speech during the opening of the 12th Congress, he said, "This task demands the best of our talents, our skills, our energies, our experience, our creativity, and our devotion to lift the pall of gloom and doom, of fear and loathing that has oppressed the national life and created a sense of despair if not fatalism among our businessmen and many of our people."

The Speaker exhorts Congress to transform itself "into an activist, reformist, achievement- and performance-oriented House."

The biggest task of the House under the Constitution is to "enact a national budget that will have the greatest impact on economic group and poverty alleviation."

"It is projected that government deficit for this year is P145 billion, about P130 billion next year, an estimated P80 billion in 2003, and P50 billion in 2004 when our three-year term comes to an end.

"These deficits must be controlled in order to defeat poverty and sustain economic growth," he said.

Money

Speaker De Venecia asked where the money was to come from, to finance the country's need to defeat poverty, insurgency, crime, and to turn the tide to get this nation on the move again, when all our main markets and sources of investments of capital were in various stages of decline.

He proposed a combination of an outward-inward strategy focused on the mobilization of internal assets while waiting for forward movements in the economies of the US, Japan, and Europe.

GINA De Venecia at the Sona.

He stated, "The Philippines has committed access to $10 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan and Europe in concessional 30-year funds with 1/3 of one percent interest and a 10-year grace period on principal.

"Within two to three years, under a multi-year plan," he said, "Congress should provide the counterpart fund so we could capture the $10 billion and thus provide the new government a total fund of $12.5 billion or P626 billion."

THE SPEAKER with his wife, Gina and children KC and Christopher.

With these funds, 250,000 houses a year can be built and a billion trees planted.

It will also augment limited funds for education, health, agriculture and infrastructure, and to modernize the Armed Forces and the PNP.

Furthermore, Speaker De Venecia has prepared his 747 Economic Action Plan that aims "to achieve seven percent growth over seven years beginning in 2003."

Mechanics

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3. Raffle will be on September 7, 2001 at 2 PM at Colgate-Palmolive Philippines to be duly witnessed by a DTI Representative.
4. Only entries received on or before August 31, 2001, 5 PM, will be included in the draw.
5. A total of 150 Colgate gift packs worth P2,000 each will be given away to the lucky winners. A participant can win only once.
6. Winners will be notified by telegram, and by registered mail.
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8. Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited with prior approval of the DTI-NCR.
9. Prize is not convertible to cash.
10. Promo duration is from July 22, 2001 to August 31, 2001.
11. Employees of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines and of its advertising agencies, suppliers and distributors, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Questions:

1. Who is your favorite character from the movie?
   _____
2. What brand of toothbrush should you use to make brushing fun?
   _____

NAME: _____
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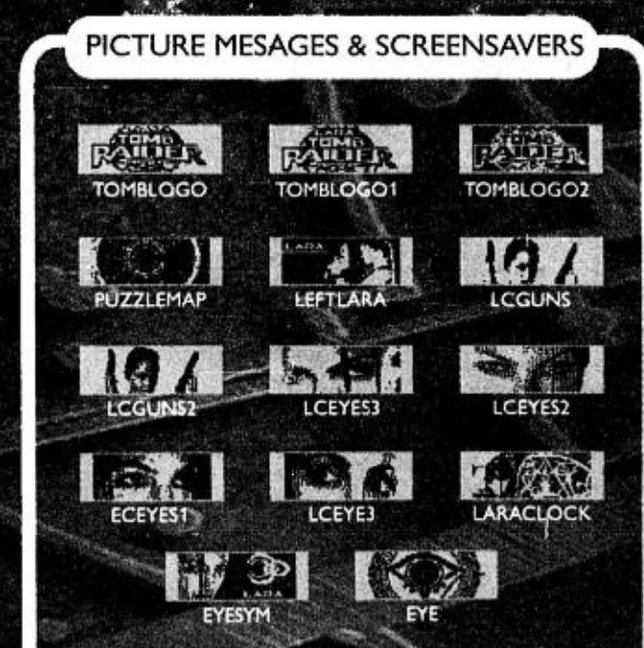

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SMART Simply Amazing!

At the movies with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

TWO Fridays ago, I went to the movies with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to watch his son Mikey's film "Mahal Kita, Kahit Sino Ka Pa." During the private screening at her La Vista residence, she craved for popcorn but settled for peanuts instead. While watching the movie, I took the opportunity to give her advice on how to solve the country's pressing problems and she promised to take action right away.

That's all in my imagination, of course, except the one about watching a movie and craving for popcorn.

Screening

I had been invited by Mikey's publicist to attend the screening, along with other entertainment writers. The screening was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. but I was advised to come at 5 p.m. I was there at 5:05 p.m. only to discover that none of the writers were around and neither was Mikey's publicist. Mikey was there. So was the President. Some men were transferring the projector from the downstairs dining area, where there was too much sunlight, to the smaller and darker anteroom.

Mikey greeted me warmly and introduced me to his mom, who was just as warm. She had just come from the Dept. of Agriculture, where she's been holding office for a few days. I gathered from her that she had reset the screening because she wanted to watch a play at UP at 8 p.m.

After the play, she was scheduled to come back to the house and meet with entertainment industry leaders about piracy. On the way to the anteroom, she gently chided Mikey to arrange private screenings like this with her appointments secretary and not talk to her directly about it.

Mikey's guests

When the projectors were set up, Mikey asked me to sit on the sofa beside GMA who was seated by herself on another chair. I expected him to join me and was surprised to see him take a seat behind GMA. No one else was in front except the two of us. Everyone else, the aides and Mikey's guests crowded behind her.

THE PRESIDENT and her son at an official function in Malacañang.

I had heard that the President was a stickler for time and true enough, at 5:30 p.m., the screening started. I expected GMA to sit quietly through the movie and maybe even doze a little. I was wrong. The first thing she noticed was that Mikey's voice was dubbed. Mikey commented that the director thought his voice did not sound good on screen.

President's daughter

As the film continued, the president's daughter, Luli joined me on the long sofa. Later, GMA transferred to the sofa and hugged her daughter. I wondered about protocol, whether I should vacate my place and sit at the back, but since Mikey had asked me to sit there, I stayed put. None of my fellow entertainment writers had arrived.

Then someone came with drinks and some appetizers, including peanuts. This was when GMA said popcorn would be better suited for a movie screening. Unfortunately, no one had thought of it.

One scene showed Mikey as a policeman, accompanied by three fellow officers, confronting four criminals, *a la* "High Noon." Mikey and the chief toughie exchanged threatening words then the four law enforcement officers turned around to leave. Several steps later, they changed directions and shot the bad guys.

GMA reacted immediately and told her son this is not how policemen handle criminals. Besides, she said the bad guys did not pull their guns. She talked about human rights violations. She advised Mikey to hire a technical consultant the next time he did a movie about cops.

Raid

Several sequences later, she disagreed with the way the policemen started shooting during a raid on a nightspot where drugs were being sold. She said the right way should have been for the cops to shout "This is a raid!"

Later, we found out that the President was an avid moviegoer. She said she had seen all of Mikey's films and was his number one critic. She also liked movies with lots of special effects and was disappointed that she wasn't able to watch "The Mummy Returns." She's very current when it comes to films, having seen "Along Came A Spider" and other new releases. (*To be concluded*)

Three outstanding actresses in 'The Vagina Monologues'

ONE of the world's most acclaimed plays, "The Vagina Monologues," has attracted actresses from the world of theater, film, television as well as international singers in the US and London.

During its acclaimed runs abroad, actresses such as Susan Sarandon, Brooke Shields, Jerry Hall, Calista Flockhart, Marisa Tomei, Rosie Perez, Winona Ryder, Whoopi Goldberg, Glenn Close, Jane Fonda, Claire Danes and Ricki Lake, have either done performance runs or benefit performances of the play.

In the Philippines, women artists from TV, stage, film, theater and recording have also been part of the New Voice Company's productions and benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues."

"The Vagina Monologues" will rock Manila once again, this time in its Filipino version. A new set of acclaimed, exciting and award-winning actresses from theater, TV, film and recording will be premiering the Filipino translation run which opens at the Music Museum on Aug. 31.

In the Filipino cast is acclaimed theater actress Arlene Borja, who has done numerous lead and character roles in theater shows such as "Magsimula Ka," "Katy!" "El Fili," "Kenkoy At Rosing," "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?," "Magnificat," "Nasaan Si Hesus?" "Walang Sugat," and "Rama At Sita" among others. She has also done numerous films and TV drama and comedy shows, as well as telesines.

Numerous concerts

Pinky Marquez is no stranger to theater, film, concert and TV audiences. She has starred in many theater productions, most notably "Katy!,' "Diary of Anne Frank," "Magnificat," "Rama At Sita," "The Sound of Music," "Lapu-Lapu," "Perfect Days" and "Alikabok." She is also a member of the popular singing group AngFOURgettables. With the group, Pinky has toured the world and done numerous concerts abroad and in the Philippines.

She also twice represented the country in the Asean Music Festival, has endorsed products for TV and print, and has appeared in TV shows and films.

Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta is best known for her dramatic portrayals on television and films. She has received the Best Supporting Actress award from the Film Academy of the Philippines, and the Best Actress Award for Star Awards-TV. She was recently seen in the films "Bagong Bayani," "Paraiso Ni Efren" and "Live Show." Aside from her TV and film credits, Harlene also took up Theater Arts in UP Diliman. Like with her TV and film roles, Harlene has consistently received critical acclaim for her performances in theater productions.

Poignant stories

"The Vagina Monologues" features outrageous, moving, funny and poignant stories on women with all its wonder, pain, joy and mystery.

The play is written by Eve Ensler and translated by award-winning Filipina playwrights Glecy Atienza, Joi Barrios and Luna Sicat. "The Vagina Monologues" in Filipino is directed by New Voice Company co-associate artistic director Rito Asilo.

(For tickets, show buying and information on "The Vagina Monologues," national and international tours, as well as NVC projects, workshops and season 2002 shows, call the New Voice Company Actors Studio at 896-5497, 896-6695 and 899-0630 telefax or e-mail at nvcpost@hotmail.com.)

BORJA, MARQUEZ AND SARMENTA. Seasoned performers all.

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: You have not acted in a movie for many years now. How come you have decided to stage a comeback at this point in time?

Veteran actor: Well, you know the saying: Once is an actor, is an actor!

(That's *not* how the saying goes!)

* * *

Host: What about directing? I hear you're also thinking of doing some directing, maybe on TV or even in the movies?

Veteran actor: Well, it's possible, but I'm still toying the idea.

(Huh?)

* * *

Host: Now that the contracts of some basketball teams' players are expiring, what will be your next move?

Team manager: Of course, after discussing the valuable ones to us, we will negotiate again with the expiring players.

(It's the *contracts* that are expiring—*not* the players!)

* * *

Host: What do you have to say about the controversial member of congress who has a serious case filed against him?

Guest: He should not be allowed to serve his term in congress, because he is a loose criminal!

(—As opposed to a tight one?!)

* * *

Host: Your producer is charging you with not following the terms of your mutual agreement, now that you have become a popular star. What is your side on this issue?

Star: He really has nothing to worry about. I'm a man of my word. I will follow our agreement, as per what what agreed on.

(What, what, *what?*)

* * *

Host: Why do you think are many people now thinking of leaving the Philippines and working and living abroad?

Guest: Well, it's clearly a bandwagon effect due to the hard times—they'll all jump on the ship like drowned rats!

(*Baliktad yata...*)

* * *

Host: Did you always want to become a VJ?

VJ: All the time, ever since I was very young!

Host: Really? Why? What was the appeal to you of being a VJ?

VJ: I wanted to be a VJ to get to go around lots of people!

(Duh!)

* * *

Host: What made you decide to shift from acting to performing in musicals?

Starlet: It's the challenge—musicals are more challenging!

Host: In what way?

Starlet: In musicals *kasi, hindi ka lang kumakanta*, you have to sing at the same time.

(*Ano daw*?!)

TV treats

On Channel 2 at 7 tonight, "Arriba, Arriba" has Winona (Jolina Magdangal) auditioning for Star Circle.

On Channel 5 at 9 p.m. today, the film on view is "King of the Hill" by Steven Soderbergh. Jesse Bradford plays a young lad who struggles to rise above his family's impoverished condition.

On Sky Cable's Channel 21 at 7 p.m., "XYZ" presents features on adoption, "miracle" births, and the Kalakasan, an NGO that defends women against violence.

On Channel 2 at 10 p.m., "Keep on Dancing" guests the hosts of Studio 23's upcoming morning show, "Breakfast"—JC Gonzales, Bam Bam Aquino, Angel Jacob, Ria Tanjuatco and Pia Arcanghel.

'Portraits of the World'

The Children of the World Foundation, a pioneer in interacting multimedia museums, presents the "Portraits of the World" museum-exhibit starting today, Aug. 4, with an on-site gala at the third level of the Festival Supermall at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. The gala's highlight is a 30-minute musical presentation by the popular Trumpets theater group.

"Portraits of the World" consists of 36 modules, some focusing on customs and traditions the world over, others on local folk tales and family values. "Christmas Around the World" is particularly fascinating because it shows how Yuletide is celebrated in different countries. Call 899-1645. The exhibit runs until Feb. 15, 2002.

The Children of the World Foundation is dedicated to uplifting the educational prospects of Filipino youth. It is presently helping 100 scholars.

'Little Mermaid' starts regular run

IT'S time for the mermaids to shine once more as Trumpets restages its hit musical "The Little Mermaid" which started its run yesterday and goes onstage again today and tomorrow.

Carol Banawa and Dianne de la Fuente reprise the title role of Jewel with Katrina Villarante, a *balikbayan* from Vancouver, Canada, playing the role at certain performances.

Carlo Orosa plays the scholarly Nicodemus while Sheila Francisco and Lynn Sherman alternate in the role of the evil Crustacea. Freddie Santos is Jewel's beloved father, King Argo while Prince Christian is played by Jeff Arcilla and Nel Rayos.

MONTAGE

Robin and Joyce in Viva movie

"Bilib Ako Sa 'Yo" starring Robin Padilla and Joyce Jimenez will be presented on Viva TV tomorrow Aug. 5 at 9 p.m. Directed by Eddie Rodriguez, the movie tells the story of a nightclub bouncer and an exotic dancer who fall in love and yearn for a better life. The only problem is their past always catches up with them.

Also starring are Eddie Gutierrez, Dennis Padilla and Rustom Padilla.

Aiza goes triple platinum

Aiza Seguerra's "Pagdating ng Panahon" has achieved triple platinum status, according to Vicor Music Corporation, Vicor president John C. Tan handed the award to Aiza on the noontime variety show "Eat Bulaga" where the singer started out.

Aiza will be seen with Barbie's Cradle in a concert tonight at 8 at the Music Museum.

'Planet of the Apes' premiere

Mossimo sponsors the premiere of "Planet of the Apes" on Aug. 10 at 8 p.m. at the SM Megamall Cinema 1. For every purchase of Mossimo products worth P2,000, buyers get two premiere tickets for free.

"Planet of the Apes" stars Mark Wahlberg as an astronaut who boards a pod cruiser on a space station bound for a routine reconnaissance mission and ends up in a strange planet where talking apes rule the human race.

'Star Wars' airs tomorrow

"A New Hope," part four of George Lucas's Star Wars saga airs tomorrow, Aug. 5 at 9 p.m. Mark Hamill plays Luke Skywalker who puts together a diverse group of allies to rescue the rebel leader Princess Leia.

The digitally remastered movie is the first in a series of "Star Wars" episodes that will be shown on Star Movies every Sunday this month.

U2 on Channel V

U2 goes on Channel V Int'l's "Speakeasy" on Aug. 5 at 4 p.m.

Bono, Edge, Larry and Adam talk about their newest album, "All That You Can't Leave Behind." Aside from being musical artists, the band has also ventured into films with its production of "The Million Dollar Hotel," which won the Silver Bear award at the Berlin Film Festival.

Mariah Carey in concert

Mariah Carey, along with Jazy-Z, 98 Degrees, Da Brat and DJ Clue perform in "Mariah Carey's Homecoming" on Star World on Aug. 6 at 10 p.m. with a replay on Aug. 7 at 1:30 a.m.

Carey returns to her junior high school in Greenlawn of NewYork and stages a concert for the students. Mariah performs her greatest hits including "Heartbreaker," "Dreamlover," "Vision of Love," "Can't Take That Away," "Rainbow and "Butterfly. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

Star Cinema's annual scriptwriting contest inspires 'Videoke King'

STAR Cinema is giving every aspiring film writer a chance to fulfill a dream of seeing his script come to life on the big screen in its Annual Scriptwriting Contest.

Finalist

"The Videoke King," one of the finalists in the 1st Annual Scriptwriting Contest is now undergoing production. Writer Ramon Sarmiento did not expect his script would be produced by Star Cinema.

A teacher by profession and a writer by vocation, Mon told himself that he would stop writing film scripts if "The Videoke King" would not be produced into a movie.

But then, he learned about the scriptwriting contest and joined. Though his entry did not make it to the top three, his script is now being produced by Star Cinema, under the direction of Jerry Lopez Sineneng, and top-billed by Robin Padilla and Pops Fernandez.

This is Robin and Pops first team-up in a movie. Upon reading the script, Binoe said *"Kakaiba! Ang ganda!"* His co-star, Pops, said that she could not put down the script the first time she read it. Like Robin, she is not surprised to know that it was a finalist in the scriptwriting contest.

Vision

Star Cinema keeps its vision of opening doors of opportunity to budding film writers with the 2nd Annual Star Cinema Scriptwriting Contest. It is open to all Filipinos, 18 years old and above, who wish to write film scripts in any genre.

Existing works are also accepted provided that the script has not yet won any award in competitions of a similar nature. Works that have been commissioned by any other production outfit are ineligible. Employees of Star Cinema and ABS-CBN are disqualified from the contest.

Apart from the chance to have their scripts produced into a movie, at stake for the winners are tax-free cash prizes of P100,000 for the first place; P80,000 for the second place and P60,000 for the third place.

Interested parties should get a copy of the contest rules and regulations with the attached consent form at the Star Cinema office at #41 Sct. Borromeo, South Triangle, Q.C., or you can download it from their website at www.abs-cbn.com/starcinema/contest.

Deadline for submission of entries is at midnight of Aug. 9. Online submissions will not be accepted.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Charles Kuralt honors 'little' people who make a big difference

BY NOELANI TORRE

WE'VE just finished reading a fine book written by Charles Kuralt. "Charles *who*?," most Filipinos would probably ask. He might not be that familiar to us but he was a well-loved figure in the United States. And after reading his book, "On the Road With Charles Kuralt" (Ballantine Books) we understand why his memory still lives on, four years after his death.

Awards

CNN called him CBS' "poet of small-town America" and everyone, colleagues and viewers alike, admired his "beautiful and vivid" television broadcasts. Kuralt won three Peabody awards and 10 Emmys. He had also written other books—"To the Top of the World," "Dateline America," "Southerners," "North Carolina Is My Home," and "A Life on the Road."

"On the Road With Charles Kuralt" is a collection of stories about individuals and groups in the small towns of America, stories that the author and his two-man camera crew gathered for more than 600 episodes of CBS' "On the Road." It was a show that Time magazine called "two-minute ceasefires" from the daily barrage" of the depressing nightly news.

The book is like that, as well. In the words of the San Francisco Chronicle, it's "a welcome antidote to the greed, the violence, the ego gratification, and the cheating that seem to dominate the media."

The stories are divided into nine groups—"Unlikely Heroes," Different Drummers," "Poets and Others," "Tall Tales and Dreams," "Small Towns," "Passing the Torch," "American Suite," "Hallowed Ground," and "Seasons." The titles hint at the richness one will find within the pages of this excellent book.

No expectations

"Unlikely Heroes" is about the "multitude of gentle people doing good for others with no expectation of gain or recognition" that Charles discovered while traversing the back roads of the country. There's "The Free Doctor" from Lincoln, Missouri, Dr. Richard T. Nuckles who charges his clients low (one dollar) or doesn't charge them anything at all.

"I'm not in it for the money," he told Charles (well, obviously not!), "I tell 'em I expect I could have been a millionaire long as I've practiced, if I wanted to. But I didn't want to. I ain't trying to be somebody good. I'm just trying to help my fellow man."

The way Charles tells it, one can almost hear the slow matter-of-fact voice of the good doctor and see the waiting room filled with people lining up to consult a miracle—a free doctor!

Another unlikely as well as unusual hero is Jethro Mann of Belmont, North Carolina, otherwise known as "The Bicycle Man." Jethro has a sort of "lending library" of, you guessed it, bicycles. These are bikes that he repaired himself and he lends them to those kids whose parents can't afford to buy them bikes. When Jethro was a kid, he didn't have one, either—so, he decided that he would do what he could so as not to let kids grow up without a bicycle.

Honor system

"We have a little system here," he said. "It's the honor system. If they fail to bring it back in this afternoon, tomorrow they don't get to ride . . . We try to use this as a learning situation for them, teach them how to be responsible for something, teach them that if they'll take care of other people's things, they can't help but take care of their own."

CHARLES/p.E7

Complete surrender to the Lord

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A FRIEND of mine once wrote my spiritual teacher about her very messy situation in life. She did not only have a problem with her husband but she also faced major issues with her children, her relatives, her business, her loans, etc.

The reply of my teacher was very simple: the real cause of one's problems is in not surrendering to the Supreme Lord—and the real solution, therefore, is to dovetail one's will with the Lord's.

Intelligence

When we look at the world around us, we try to figure out how to solve each and every problematic situation using our intelligence. We hardly ever go to the root of the problem and analyze how we arrived at such a condition in the first place. We do not accept the reality that we have caused our own suffering and misery.

The sages present spiritual life as a very practical thing. If we take what is in our possession and use it in service of the Lord, we will not create problems for ourselves, for others or for Mother Earth. But if we pursue our own material ambitions, we will automatically cause problems.

If there is economic development but no spiritual aptitude, then trouble results because we will tend to misuse money and whatever else we come in contact with.

Many persons who acquire wealth often use it to damage their body, their family and even the environment. They overeat, smoke or drink. They may also cultivate illicit relationships and use their faculties to have sensual gratification with many partners. In addition, they pollute the very environment they live in.

Pollution

Indeed the pollution we are now witnessing can only be attributed to materialism or our lack of spirituality. We are polluted in our hearts and minds and this is also reflected in the way we treat our family, society and environment.

If we want to be happy, we have to develop a devotional attitude in relation to the Lord. Full self-surrender to the Supreme Being not only means surrender of the soul or being but also of our mind, body, money, facilities, etc. Some people proudly declare, "I love God but I give money only to my family."

A devotee, on the other hand, thinks, "Whatever I am and whatever I have belongs to the Lord. I place myself and everything in His loving hands." This is the meaning of complete surrender.

It means having faith in God as our Supreme Controller and Supreme Friend. We can depend on God fully because He has our best interests at heart and He is fully capable of protecting us from all danger. He cares for us more than we care for ourselves!

'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' starts performances on Aug. 10

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

"HEDWIG and the Angry Inch" is a musical about a drag queen who undergoes a botched sex-change operation which has left her with an "angry inch." She talks about her life as a prostitute and her unrequited love for a rock star she taught to sing, whose career goes global while she works in a seedy club.

Title role

The musical, with Jake Macapagal playing the title role and co-starring Lana Jalosjos, will be staged by Atlantis Productions at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCIBank Building Tower One in Makati City starting on Aug. 10. It is directed by Bobby Garcia, who turned "Rent" into a runaway hit in 1999. We talked to Bobby recently about his latest project:

The plays that you've done have been mainly non-mainstream. *May pagka*-controversial. Do you do that on purpose?

No, I don't believe in doing a play just to be controversial. If you find good material and it turns out to be controversial, then that's great. Yeah, it just so happens that "Rent" and "Hedwig" are following each other and they were both controversial plays. But next year we're doing a play called "Proof" with Lea Salonga, it's not controversial at all!

The thread that connects all your plays is that they're mostly musicals, rock musicals...

First, music is a big part of my life and rock music, specifically for theater, for me is exciting, because if you think about the musicals of the '40s and the '50s, "South Pacific" going to "West Side Story," the songs that you heard onstage were the hits on the radio at the same time. "Some Enchanted Evening" was a top '40s hit in its time while "South Pacific" was onstage.

Radio

So the audience was coming into the theater listening to music that was current in their ears, that was the music on the radio. That's how I equate it to the generation now. They want to hear music that's relevant to them, the same type of music on the radio. That's why a rock musical speaks to the generation now because it's the music that you hear on the radio.

JAKE Macapagal as Hedwig.

What makes you think "Hedwig" will attract a big crowd?

Well, first off, it's got fantastic music. It's a small show, it's only got two actors and the band, so it's an easier show for us to mount. Our tickets are much cheaper than the bigger musicals, like "Rent." It made sense to me to do a small musical that could still attract a big audience.

In terms of subject matter, you're dealing here with a story of a drag queen. Is that something that the Filipino audience would go for?

You know, the first time we did "Rent" two years ago, I had no idea. What I realized is that one should never underestimate the Filipino audience. Because they're extremely intelligent and discerning. And as long as something is good and well-produced, they will watch.

In "Rent," the story was something that the audience could identify with...relationships, universal problems, *meron din bang ganito* sa "Hedwig"?

The thing about this show is it's site-specific. So "Hedwig" is set here. Hedwig is actually in the Philippines. He makes lots of references to things in the Philippines.

It's supposed to be Hedwig's rock concert. He's not Filipino. He's German, coming to the Philippines to perform in a small theater because he's not that famous. He's terrified the Abu Sayyaf might kidnap him!

If "Rent's" message was "No day but today", *ano ang* message *ng* "Hedwig"?

"I will survive!" Because despite all the things Hedwig's been through in life, he still manages to look at the stars and make the best out of everything! The girl-the guy-the girl—has been through everything, he had a botched sex-change operation, got divorced, his lover stole all his music then became a famous rock star, but he still manages to see the bright side....so "I will survive!"

In terms of sexual content, *mas* heavy *ba dito* than "Rent"?

It's heavier in the sense that it's verbalized more but because it's only Hedwig onstage telling his story, you have to use your imagination to see what he's talking about. There's no nudity, there's no same-sex kissing onstage—it's in your imagination!

But this is not a musical for children. Teenagers, I'm sure, can enjoy it.

I notice that the two cast members of your play are also from "Rent." Did you have to audition people?

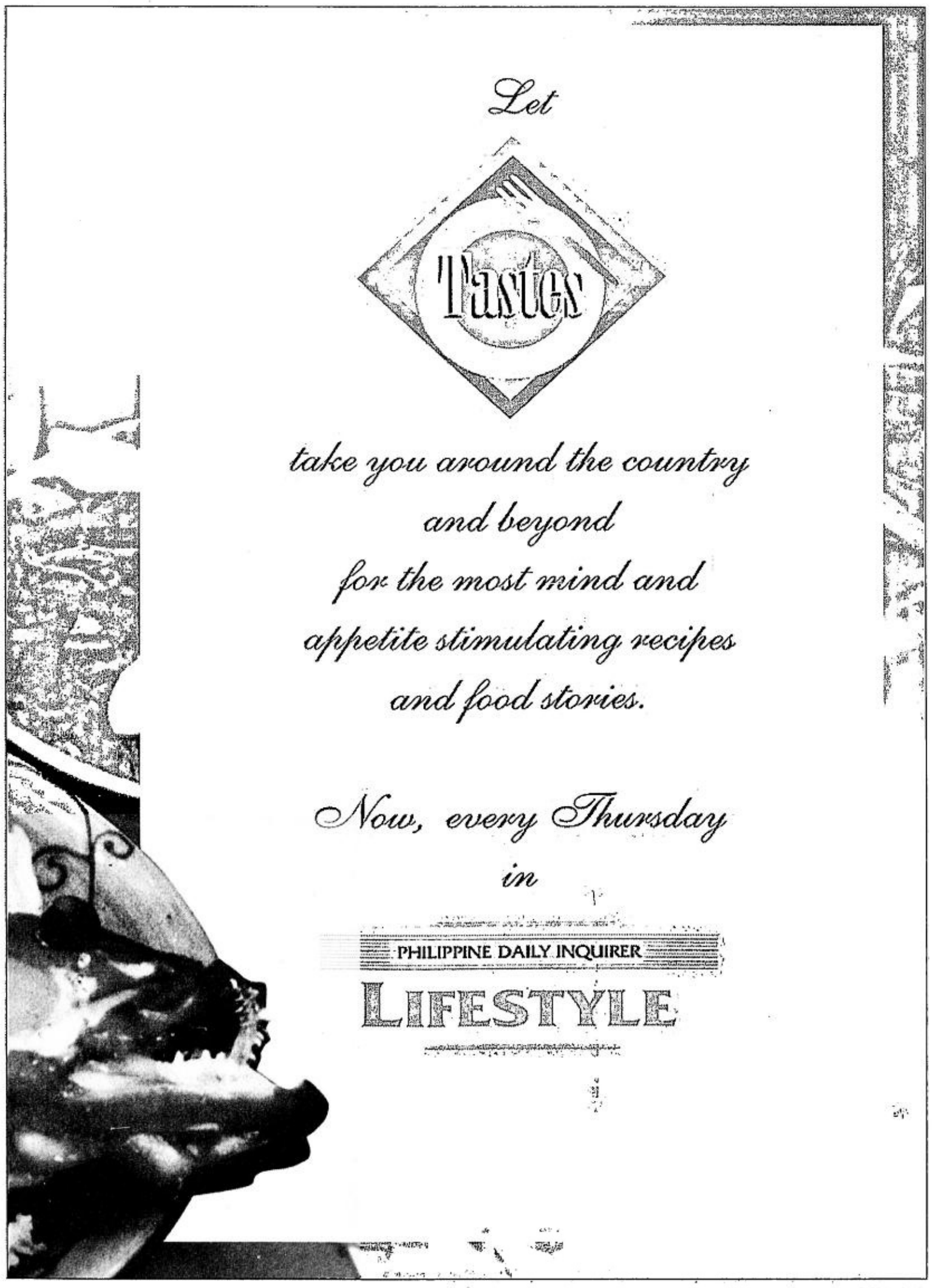
I didn't audition for this because when the rights were finalized, it just so happened I was finishing "Rent" for Singapore. Jake (Macapagal) played Angel and he looks great in a dress! And he doesn't wobble when he's in heels, plus he lived in Germany for many years and the character is supposed to be from Germany, so it really made sense to cast him in the role.

High C

The role of Lana (Jalosjos)—Lana plays a man, who's supposed to have an extremely amazing high C and Lana has a voice that goes to like, Pangasinan, from here! And then she's a really handsome man also. She has *bigote* like that.....it just fell into place. I didn't have to audition.

According to them, they're onstage for the duration of the play.

Everyone, including the band. This is what's interesting about the show. It's presented as though it's the rock concert of Hedwig. So he's onstage throughout and then he just tells his story in between songs. It's *nakakapagod*!



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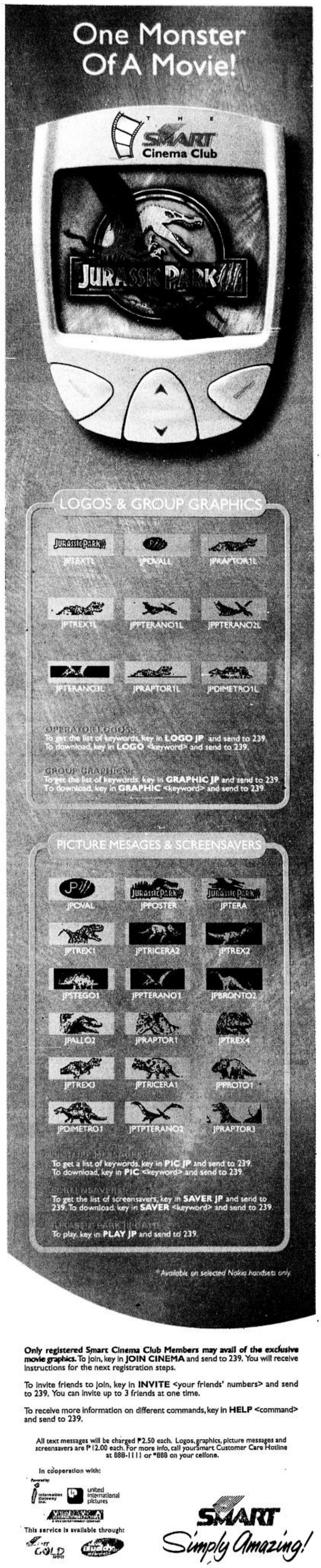

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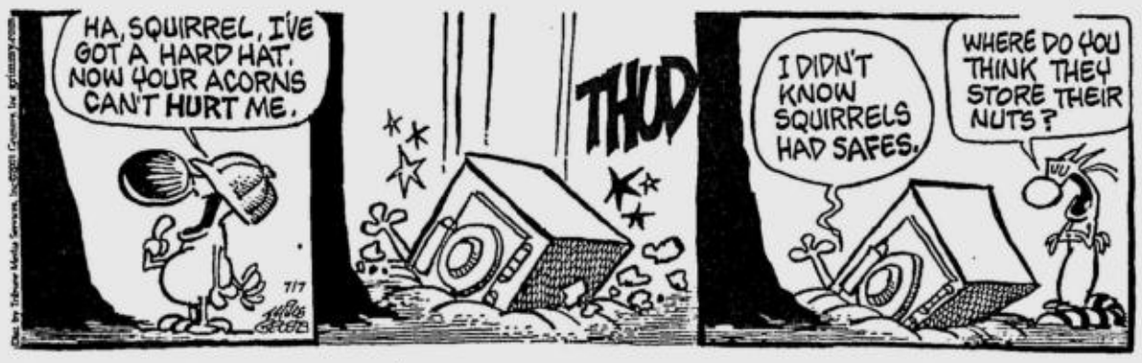
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS



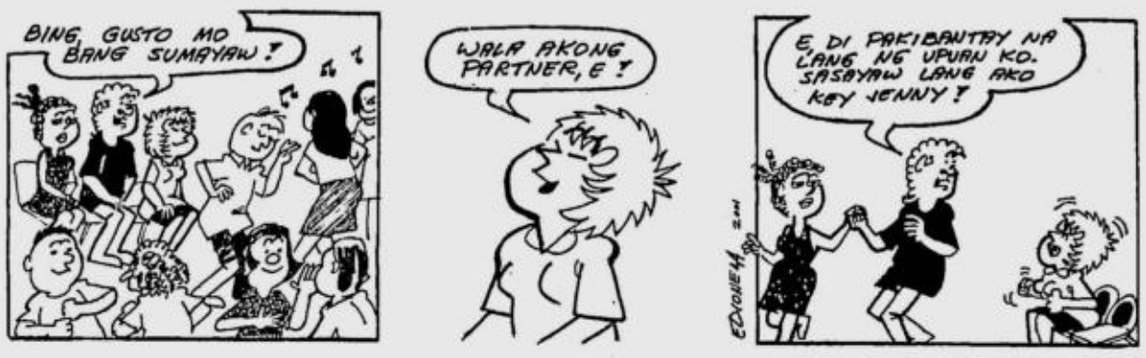
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA



BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roger Clemens, Queen Mother, Helen Thomas, Richard Belzer, Jeff Gordon, Billy Bob Thornton

Happy Birthday: It's time to put yourself on the line and make things work. Put in the time and effort, and you will reap the rewards. This is a great year to improve whatever you don't like about yourself or your life. Stop thinking and start doing. Once you get moving in the right direction, nothing will stand in your way. Your numbers: 18, 22, 24, 31, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your money into your house, not into some risky venture that someone is trying to talk you into. You need to get back to stable investments and forget about becoming an overnight millionaire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Romantic connections can be made through intellectual pursuits. Take time to get to know one another as friends first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be highly sensitive to comments made by your peers. Hold your temper and refrain from taking risks that might cause injury.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be emotional about the hardships facing someone close to you. Make both of you feel better by taking care of some duties and paperwork.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone may be difficult, so don't push yourself on him or her. Go out and do your own thing. After all, no one needs to be dragged down by someone else.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Socialize with peers. You need to get into the swing of things. Changes to enhance your appearance will boost your confidence. You can attract a suitable mate with your intelligence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your ideas to work. Your insightful, trendsetting way of putting things together will be admired by others. Creative outlets will ease tension.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A female family member will cause problems. Ignore her inexcusable behavior and carry on with your own plans. You have to stop trying to please everyone else.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your need to be a part of something will lead to participation in interesting clubs or groups. Enjoy the new surroundings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're worrying about money again. Try to curb female spending habits in your family. They must pay for their own debts.

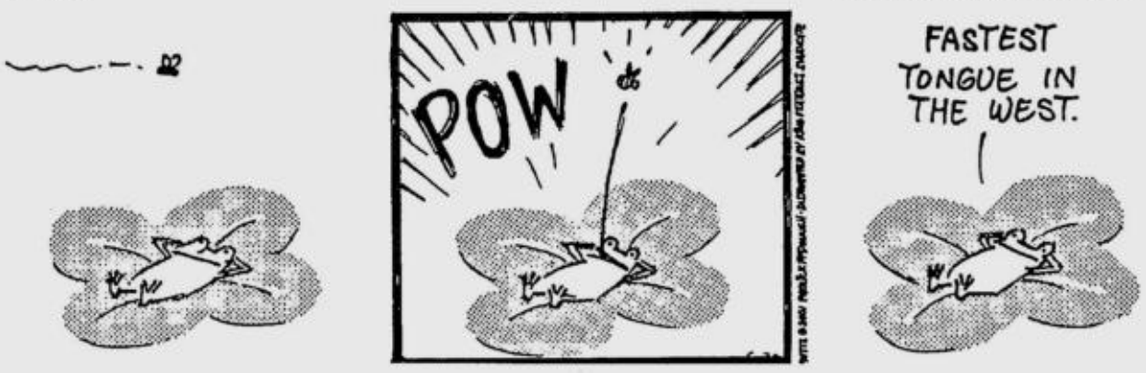
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your emotions will be up and down if your future looks unpredictable. Try to move with the times and let things evolve. Follow your instincts in business decisions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Rely on intuition to make the right decision about friends. Re-evaluate their motives before putting yourself on the line for people who may not be worthy.

Birthday Baby: You are the great inventor and can take anything apart. If you care to, you probably can put it back together as well. Most of all, your curiosity about everything will result in an open heart and an open mind. Success awaits you.

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

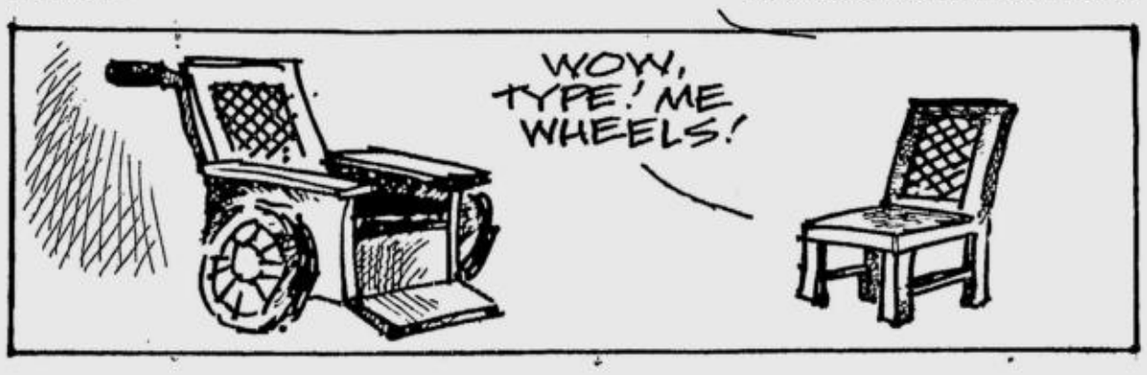
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

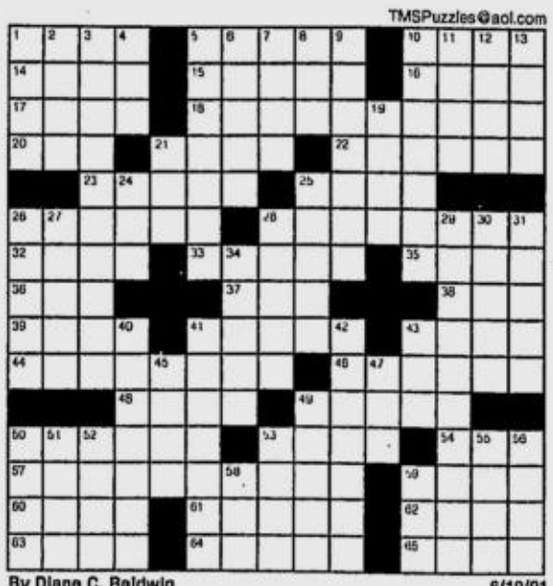
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Standstill
5 Sound of a wet impact
10 Harebrained
14 Preside at tea
15 Computer critter?
16 Emerald Isle
17 Culturally showy
18 Falling apart
20 In addition
21 Sole curve
22 Moves in neutral
23 Odd event
25 McCartney's instrument
26 Fall guy
28 Spine piece
32 Acidic
33 Window leak
35 Dull time
36 Wind up
37 MacGraw of "Love Story"
38 Wallet bill
39 Pulitzer winner of 1958
41 Weight-loss plans
43 Related by blood
44 Ethics teacher
46 Most up-to-the-minute
48 Pinkish table wine
49 Bridge expert
50 Cuba's Fidel
53 Ocean ice
54 Rabbit mama
57 Not working
59 Exercise discipline
60 List end, sometimes
61 Spooky
62 Leather punches
63 Hold back
64 Alps warble
65 Patella's location

DOWN
1 Minor quarrel
2 Spanish bull
3 Broken down
4 Be nosy
5 Smiled smugly
6 __ de Leon
7 Luxuriant
8 Cinder
9 Serving trolley
10 Corrupted
11 Feels poorly
12 Succumb to worry
13 "__ of the d'Urbervilles"
19 More than 50 percent
21 Summer mo.
24 Destiny
25 Be suitable for
26 Power for Fulton
27 Latin dance
28 Male servant
29 Busted
30 Indian royalty
31 Emissary
34 Pay hike
40 Of this world
41 Skirt the regulations
42 Breathing device
43 Reverent wonder
45 Traditional knowledge
47 Unit of work
49 Spirit in a bottle
50 University student
51 Feed the kitty
52 Musial or Kenton
53 Feathered friend
55 Eye covetously
56 Leisure
58 Zodiac cat
59 Shaggy-haired ox

By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
6/19/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	L	D	A		B	A	T	O	R		C	L	O	D
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W	A	T	T		W	O	T	A	N		M	E	A	T

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ANSWER ON MONDAY

Charles

(From page E9)

Who would've thought you could impart such lessons by doing such a simple thing as lending a bike? Jetro Mann does this and that makes him a real hero.

"Different Drummers" as the title suggests, shows people who, as the saying goes, march to a different beat. Our favorite is "The Pilot," 80-year-old Edna Gardner Whyte, a woman who became a famous flyer despite the obstacles that stood in her way—namely, men.

"The first three instructors I had told me to quit—I was going to kill myself," she recounted. Of course, she did neither. Edna went on to win flying races at least 123 times—mostly against men! "I want to fly until I'm a hundred, I really do," she said. I want to keep winning flying races . . .Beating men." Way to go Edna!

In "Poets and Others," Charles brings to us that certain kind of person "who had inside of him such a love of something and talks about it so lyrically and intensely, that in telling you about it, he makes you love it, too."

Little chapel

What touched us the most was not the story of an individual but the story of hundreds, specifically that of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. In their little chapel in La Crosse, Wisconsin they "have been praying *without interruption* for a hundred years!" Awesome.

The sisters take shifts, and they make sure that in each of the 24 hours in every day, two sisters are praying in their chapel. They pray for the world for all people, for peace to come to us all. We repeat, awesome!

As we continue reading this book we are amazed at the many selfless acts that countless people do for others. The Good Samaritan still lives, after all. It shows how gifted Charles Kuralt is that he manages to find these rare personalities.

But that's not all that he shows us. He also tells stories about people who we didn't know still existed, like the anonymous prospector from "somewhere out west."

A prospector is somebody who pans for gold. Of course, most of the breed died out in the late 19th century, but apparently one of them still lives. He prefers to remain anonymous because "he didn't want to be bothered by a bunch of people who have no better sense than to be watching television when they could be mining gold."

"I say don't tell anybody that we got gold like this, because I don't want it all over. I don't want everybody to know it because they'll be coming here and driving me nuts," he laughed. Did he have gold "like this"? We won't tell. Appropriately, he belongs to the section entitled "Tall Tales and Dreamers."

Characters

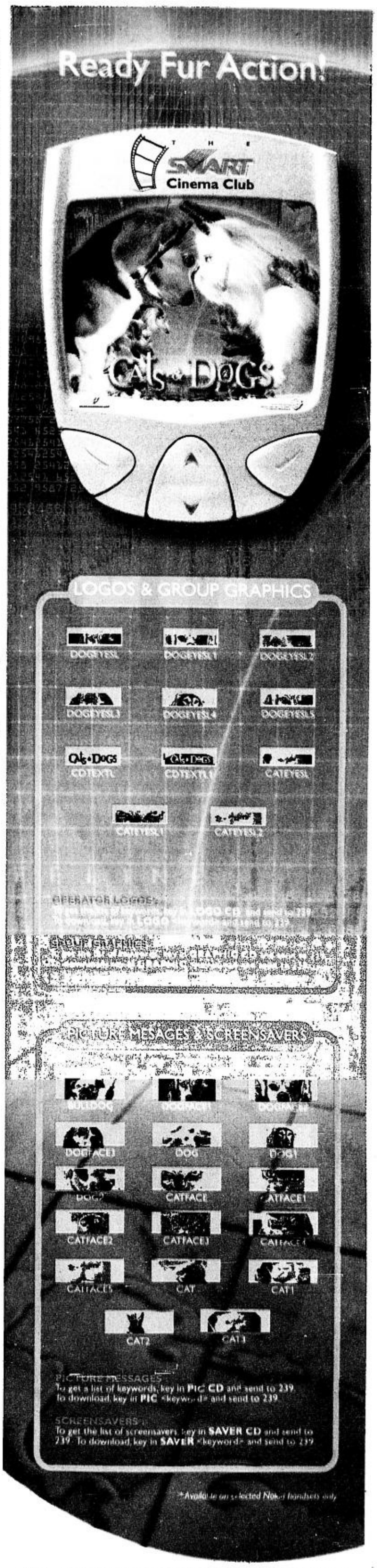
Pocket communities are the focus in "Small Towns," but they have to be towns with character. There's this place in Arcala, Illinois where you can get a special cup of coffee. It's not the coffee itself, it's the cup that's special. It's yours, you see: It has your name painted on it. But there's a catch for newcomers.

(To be concluded)

Makakakita ka ng bagong milagro!

Miracle Whip Sandwich Spread, may bagong label kaya madaling makita ang sarap na abot-kaya.

Milagro sa Sarap at Savings



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On August 1, 2001, The Fur Will Fly!

Hans Montenegro joins 'Unang Hirit' as co-host

BY JOCELYN VALLE

JUST like Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao of "Extra, Extra," Hans Montenegro has no background in broadcast journalism. Instead, he has both undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology (Ateneo de Manila University and Santa Clara University in California, respectively) and worked as a counselor and technical recruiter for IBM in San Francisco for two years.

Yet, Hans is one of the latest additions to Channel 7's early morning news and public affairs program, "Unang Hirit," together with mass communications graduates Rhea Santos and Ivan Mayrina.

No problem

"Unang Hirit's" executive producer Neil Gumban sees no problem with that. He points out that Hans went through the usual auditions and the 27-year-old former ramp and commercial model passed them.

Gumban is likewise not bothered by Hans' controversial past. Personal history is not a factor in casting their hosts, he explains. Veteran broadcaster and "Unang Hirit's" senior host, Arnold Clavio, adds that their show is not wholly personality-based.

Chemistry

Viewers, says Clavio, appreciate more the chemistry that the hosts, who include Lyn Ching, Suzi Entrata and Martin Andanar, share. "*Pampagaang ng umaga*," he smiles.

Hans is thankful for the support he's been getting from his "Unang Hirit" family. "We're more than a morning show," he enthuses. "We're really friends." And he's working hard to match the professionalism, versatility and energy of his colleagues.

For starters, he's learning to speak Filipino better. He only spent five years abroad but even before he studied and worked in the US, Hans has always struggled with the national language. Lately, he's been reading a lot of tabloids and conversing in the vernacular.

Gumban shares that they encourage the "Unang Hirit" hosts to produce their own stories. Hans is glad that his segments, "Around the Philippines" and "Hans On Technology," focus on two subjects that are very close to his heart.

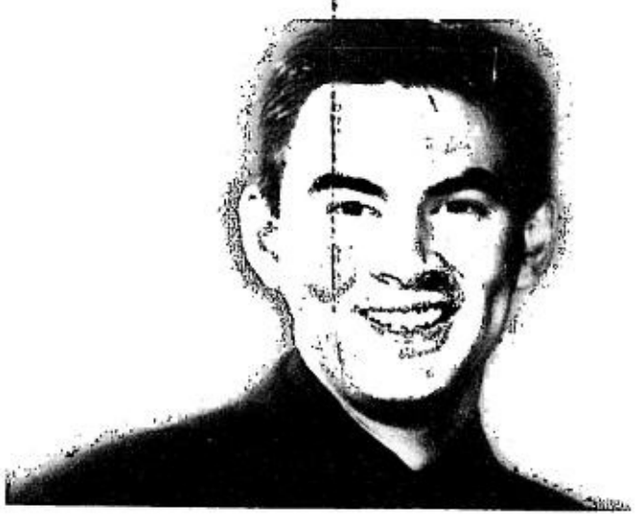
New places

He hopes that his enthusiasm in visiting new places in the country and discovering the latest technological gadgets will help compensate for his lack of experience in TV production. He's more than willing to learn, too.

Hopefully, people will no longer think of Hans as a scared young man who, after being the victim in a molestation case, fled the country five years ago to avoid the storm like a guilty accomplice.

He showed courage when he faced Paolo Bediones (his good friend and also the one who encouraged him to come back and try TV work) on "S Files" early this year amid talk questioning his motives in going public about his role in the controversy. "It was for my peace of mind," he relates now in reflection.

Broadcast journalism, like any line of work, demands credibility and reliability. Hans has the trust of the well-regarded news organization behind "Unang Hirit." And the optimistic neophyte happily reports that he's been getting positive reaction from the public.



MONTENEGRO. Optimistic neophyte.

Survival tactics in local show biz

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

MOVIE studios generally hold on to their contract stars as though they were their crown jewels, adamantly refusing to "lend" them to competing film companies. After all their star value could result in hits for their competitors, and that would never do!

Deep slump

These days, however, the movie industry is in such a deep slump that even big movie studios have cut back on their annual film output. This presents a big problem to the companies who have many stars under contract, because they are no longer able to give them the regular stellar showcases they need to keep their film careers on an upward trajectory.

That's why studios are now "lending" even their big stars to smaller film companies that don't have contract talents. And the major production companies are more open to teaming their biggest stars up with each other, as well as engaging in co-production ventures, specially if they have budgets that are too big for one studio to cover.

This busier "star traffic" between studios is only one of the schemes that local movie people have devised to survive the difficult film times. Another is the decision of stars to reduce their huge talent fees, just to keep movie companies in business.

Tough decision

This is a tough decision for movie headliners, because in the industry, the size of their talent fee is seen as an indication of how high up the stellar ladder they've climbed. A reduction in talent fee could very well be misconstrued as the star's admission that his bankability has diminished.

Despite this danger, stars have been biting the bullet and taking drastic cuts in talent fees, just to keep working. After all, a star without a movie is quickly forgotten by our fickle film fans, particularly if he's on the wrong side of 30.

Other survival measures: stars without movies earn pocket money by forcing themselves to sing, so they can go on the personal-appearance or provincial-roadshow circuits. These tours may not pay all that much these days, but the extra income is still welcome.

Basketball teams

Then there are the male stars who form basketball teams for exhibition games, both here and abroad. Since basketball and movie stars are separately popular, combining them in one package doubles its audience appeal, so these "star players" are kept busy, particularly during the fiesta season.

Other film stars make most of their income these days on television. Some of them used to avoid appearing on TV because they were afraid of overexposure, but there's no danger of that now, since film production has been reduced to a trickle.

However, there are signs that even television could be headed for harder times later this year, as advertisers cut down on their exposure on the tube. So, other "sidelines" may have to be explored by stars who want to keep their careers afloat, and their finances solvent.

Jobless

For "inspiration," they could take their cue from show biz people who were able to survive the even grimmer period of the Martial Law era. Quite a number of them woke up to find themselves jobless, but instead of simply crawling under a rock to die, they used their creativity to look for other ways of bringing home the bacon (or *tocino*).

A TV producer-director became a pianist in a jazz club. A star went into PR work. Another luminary started acting in radio dramas. A producer went into the food business.

Looking back on those desperately tough times, these survivors regard the current show biz slump as a relatively minor challenge. They're positive that, if stars don't blindly hold on to their pride and refuse to read the handwriting on the wall, they too will be able to not just survive, but even triumph over the worst that the fickle finger of fate can hurl at the suffering denizens of the show biz world.

Great meals in Cebu

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

A COOKING demo for San Miguel Foods and the Australasia Shooting competition again gave me the opportunity to visit Cebu, the island of food and prosperity.

As we landed, I couldn't help notice the number of tourists Cebu has. The place didn't seem to be experiencing the slump evident in the rest of the country. Our stay brought hope for the future of our rich land.

First visit

A major part of our agenda was our survey of dining places. Our first visit was to a restaurant called Abuhan. It is one of the oldest dining places in the city. We had some Cebuano *pochero* which is like our *bulalo* with fresh corn and *labong*.

The chunks of sticky and tender beef clung to the marrow filled bones. With some *patis* and crushed *sili*, it was a killer with steamed rice.

I also enjoyed their Bami, which is like our version of *pancit* canton, but with various kinds of noodles. Great meal.

The next day, our friends Alex and Lyn Ranola took us to this new seafood restaurant near Shangri-La, Seafood Market and Restaurants. As you enter, there are displays of various fresh seafoods that you can choose from.

We had a salt water *tilapia* served with *gata* (Sampedro), *Takobo* or giant clam which was chopped and made into a sour and spicy *kinilaw*, baked fresh scallops with cheese, spicy giant crab, garlic-fried *tanguingue* tail and tuna *panga*.

View

There wasn't anything fancy in the preparation but everything we had was sea-fresh. Taste is different when it comes like this. The restaurant is right over water with a view of the sea. Nice, clean air!

Next evening was dinner at Café Laguna, where we had a delicious meal of Laksa (*puso ng saging* with *gata*), *Batchoy* Laguna which is a soup of innards with *misua*, and *dinuguang manok*. With garlic rice, it was divine! "*Bangungot*" was what we deserved after pigging out during that feast.

I have yet to try a *lechon de leche* which a friend, Ina Choa claims is the best of Cebu. I'll report my "findings" soonest.

I believe that food is an important part of a place's tourist attractions. Cebu has that!

Happy eating!

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

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SaturdaySPECIAL

PANELO. Finds freedom and fulfillment in playing someone else.

Belinda Panelo takes another shot at acting

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

BELINDA Panelo is comfortable in comic roles. She's not afraid to be silly or ridiculous, as long as she can make her audience laugh. That trait landed her a guest spot on 'Tropang Trompo' in 1996.

Sex comedy

Then, after two weeks she was offered a non-speaking role in a sex-comedy flick. But as luck would have it, her director decided to expand her role and paired her with Leo Martinez. She blushes in embarrassment as she recalls the title of her first sex-comedy movie: "SPO1: The Dancing Policeman."

Small role

After that, Belinda got a small role in 'TGIS: The Movie' as the snobbish girlfriend of Michael Flores. The offers kept on coming but Belinda turned everything down.

"I was disappointed. In the States, I was always auditioning for roles. That was quite an experience. But I wasn't doing enough auditions here. I was looking for a challenge," Belinda shares.

Belinda relishes her acting experience in the States and wanted to duplicate that feat here in Manila. Even if she only got $3 per play, the lessons she learned were valuable and irreplaceable. She took acting lessons here and auditioned for several plays. She did three stage plays with NUT: 'Etiquette for Mistresses,' 'Beauty and the Best,' and 'Bagong Bayani.'

BELINDA/P.F2

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The draw schedule and the promotion period covered are as follows:

	Promo Period	Draw Date
Week 1	July 29 - August 5, 2001	August 6, 2001
Week 2	August 6 - 12, 2001	August 13, 2001
Week 3	August 13 - 19, 2001	August 20, 2001
Week 4	August 20 - 26, 2001	August 27, 2001
Week 5/ 1st Monthly	August 27 - September 2, 2001	September 3, 2001
Week 6	September 3 - 9, 2001	September 10, 2001
Week 7	September 10 - 16, 2001	September 17, 2001
Week 8	September 17 - 23, 2001	September 24, 2001
Week 9	September 24 - 30, 2001	October 1, 2001
Week 10/ 2nd Monthly	October 1 - 7, 2001	October 8, 2001

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For the 2 Monthly Grand Draws:
(4) Compaq iPaq Pocket PC
(2) Piaggio Vespa PX 150
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6. Taxes for all prizes will be shouldered by Sonera zed.
7. A participant can only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize of higher value and another entry will be generated in its place.
8. All winners of the weekly and grand draw will be informed initially via a text message and registered mail. From the date of notification, winners have until 60 days to claim their prize. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of Sonera zed with prior approval from DTI.
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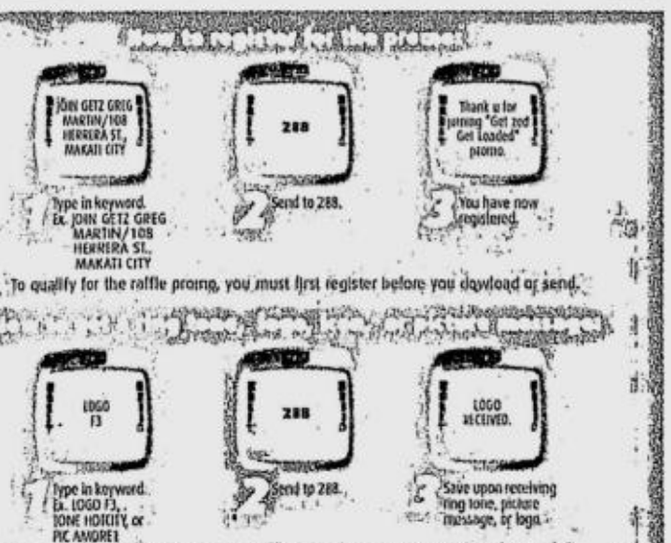

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0867, Series of 2001.

Watch out for the first weekly draw on August 6, 2001.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

KC Concepcion shines

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

KC Concepcion aptly embodies the attitude of the Human image model. She's carefree without being irresponsible, intense without being overbearing, fashionable without being too trendy, sweet without being superficial.

During the launch last week, we learned that KC likes Bangkok, Pinoy comedy and sports. She doesn't like stripes and the color orange in her wardrobe but she's open to modelling them.

KC candidly admits that she's not a vain person. "I eat and eat and eat. Physically, I don't pay that much attention to my appearance. My mom always tells me to take time to rest. I can sleep for only three hours and my mom says that's not good. So I try to get enough sleep these days.

"We live in a tropical country so I try to moisturize my skin. I always carry lip balm with me. But that's about it. I don't have a beauty regimen."

KC feels that style can't be quantified. Her style icons include Madonna, Jennifer Love Hewitt and Cameron Diaz. "Style comes naturally. It's not something that you can talk about, it just comes out. I can feel comfortable in anything. I always wear what's comfortable."

KC describes herself as friendly, outgoing and modest. She says that she inherited her mom's caring and friendly nature and she has imbibed the patience of her stepdad, Senator Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan.

Mulatto has what it takes

Judging from the huge turnout at 8th Day, Mulatto made sure that they gave the crowd the best in cruise music. Even if there was a heavy downpour outside, Mulatto belted out tunes like "I'll Be There," "Lovely Day," "What's Going On," and "Let Me In" to keep the energy at the Crossover Live party alive and upbeat.

They sang a few requested songs like "The Hurt," "What a Wonderful World" and "Wish I Was Making Love to You" to the cheers and delight of the crowd.

Mulatto's second set sustained the momentum with "Fall Up," "Jet Plane," "My Girl," "That's The Way," and "Mr. Jones" even if it was almost midnight. But Lani Misalucha upstaged them when she jammed with them. The crowd enjoyed Lani's version of "The Closer I Get to You" and "Neither One of Us" and didn't want Lani to leave the stage.

After that, Mulatto worked doubly hard to regain the spotlight. But Lani's performance was too overpowering, so even Mulatto's upbeat '70s medley failed to recapture the audience's attention.

James Blanco makes the big leap

His face is truly refreshing, and since his Lifebuoy commercial came out, people have not stopped talking about James Blanco Castillo, Jr, who at 21 is being touted as the next heartthrob of Philippine show business.

We got the chance to talk to Blanco at the presscon of his very first movie, "Cool Dudes" and this guy's charisma is something else: it grows on people. Blanco has once again disproved that only mestizos are eligible to become matinee idols.

He admits that he is overwhelmed by all the attention that he is currently getting, but feels that he should seize the moment. "I feel very lucky that I'm getting the good breaks. But I know luck is never constant, that's why I'm making sure that I make the best out of these good things that come my way."

He is starting to feel the pressure of being in the limelight now that his debut film, which also stars Cogie Domingo and Danilo Barrios, is about to be shown. "Things are happening faster than I expected, but I hope I'll be able to remain calm and composed through all this," he breathes.

'The Lark' is provocative

Get to know the woman behind the controversial Joan of Arc and be part of the historic trial of a simple lass who transformed herself into a true warrior because of the hypocrisies of the church she believed in so much. Jean Anouilh's "The Lark" got off to a rousing start last night at the St. Cecilia's Hall of the St. Scholastica's College campus with newly-married Lara Fabregas lending her earthiness and innocence to the lead role.

The story flows out of a medieval courtroom, where the trial of Joan flashes back to moments in her past. Gripping and moving, the play tries to examine the true essence of martyrdom and the real definition of sinfulness.

Giving Fabregas ample support are stage thespians Michael Williams, James Paolleli, Debby Enriquez, Apollo Abraham, ramp and commercial models Chris Garcia and Gerrard Fabie, video jock Ed Feist, and Lara's husband, Raymond Bagatsing.

Incidentally, we were witness to the very solemn Ananda Marga garden wedding of Raymond and Lara in Tagaytay and we'd like to offer them our most positive affirmations for a happy life together.

"The Lark" will be staged at St. Scholastica tonight at 8 and tomorrow at 3, before it moves to the Shangri-la Mall on August 24, 25 and 26.

Jeffrey Hidalgo on his own

He just turned 24 yesterday and Jeffrey Hidalgo celebrated his big day via his first-ever solo concert at the Music Museum. "It's a dream come true for me," said the former Smokey Mountain vocalist.

Billed as "Bared," Hidalgo explained that it was an affirmation that he has truly bid his 'teenage singer status' goodbye. Those who came to watch the show got a peek of Hidalgo in the raw as photographs of him by Raul Teehankee were exhibited at the Music Museum lobby.

Most special was the presence of his Smokey Mountain colleagues—Geneva Cruz, Tony Lambino and James Coronel --who are now all grown up and pursuing their respective careers.

Hidalgo recently signed up with Viva after a short stint with Star Records, and plans are in the offing for his next album. He has also spread his wings to include acting on TV, where he is seen in the early-evening soap "Pangako sa Yo," where he plays support to his rumored real-life girlfriend, Kristine Hermosa.

MULATTO. Dished out the best in cruise music.

10 YEARS AGO

Outstanding directors come up with eventful films

GUILLEN. Voted Best Director by the Manunuri for "Kapag Langit ang Humatol."

BY NOELANI TORRE

DIRECTORS dominated the headlines during the first half of August '91—Laurice Guillen with her melodrama "Una Kang Naging Akin," Gil Portes with his sex-drama "Class of '91, Bakit Masarap ang Mali?" and Maria Saret with her action films "Zaldong Tisoy" and "Nakaukit na ang Lapida Mo . . . Junior Elvis."

Not surprisingly, the movies they directed were also the ones most talked about. Laurice's "Una Kang Naging Akin" featured Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion.

Best director

Earlier that year, Ms Guillen was voted Best Director by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino for the Vilma Santos starrer "Kapag Langit ang Humatol." And, as we have all witnessed, her talents have only improved through the course of 10 years.

Another female director attracting considerable attention was Maria Saret, who had made more than 30 films by that time, most of them belonging to the action genre.

She said that she found melodramas to be "unctuous and lyrical" and that she preferred the "excitement and fast pacing" of action films. Still, critics found that she was also able to give drama scenes "the sensitive treatment they require."

Major talents

The exceptions to her action-films-only record were "Psst...Halika, Babae" (starring Amalia Fuentes) and Gloria Diaz's "Karibal Ko ang Aking Ina." She had also handled such major talents as Vilma Santos in "Susan Kelly, Edad Beinte" and Nora Aunor in "Reyna ng Pitong Gatang." At this time 10 years ago, Saret was busy cajoling good performances from her two young action charges, Ian Veneracion and Jon Hernandez.

Gil Portes, meanwhile, had just finished "Class of '91, Bakit Masarap ang Mali?" The New York-based director had achieved success the year before when his film, "Andrea...Paano ba ang Maging Ina?" garnered 11 awards, including Best Screenplay and Best Director.

Of the above-mentioned films, it was Portes' that got the biggest media mileage. The second offering of newly established Pacwood Films, "Class of '91" starred Aga Muhlach, Rina Reyes, Cristina Gonzalez, and Donita Rose. The screenplay was written by Ricky Lee and told the story of four working students who struggled to overcome obstacles in order to fulfill their dream of finishing college.

Cristina Gonzalez played Helen, a girl who dreams of finishing commerce and becoming a homemaker but who is compelled by poverty to become a prostitute to pay her tuition fees. Rina Reyes is Sally, a co-"worker" of Helen's who is supported by a sugar daddy played by Lito Legaspi. Aga and Donita are siblings abandoned by their bargirl mother and American father.

Real life

"The situations here were culled from real life," said Portes. "Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of boys and girls become unwilling participants in prostitution due to financial reasons. Some of them get to like it and stay on in the trade. Others get out of it as soon as they finish college and find decent jobs."

The attention given to the film was partly due to daring photos of actress Rina plastered on the front pages of major tabloids. Her grandmother, veteran actress Paraluman, was reported scandalized by the sexy photos.

Rina told reporters that she was pained that her grandmother did not give her a chance to explain, and she insisted that she did not agree to pose with her breasts exposed for publicity.

The pictures, she said, were taken from negatives of the movie's final print. Director Portes had only good things to say about Rina, stating that she was "a fine actress" with "depth" and a "sensitive performer."

Renewed attention

People were also paying renewed attention to the then 22-year-old Aga Muhlach whose new-found maturity earned him raves from critics. "I used to be self-conscious whenever the director shouted 'Take!' and that camera motor started roaring," said the actor. "I performed better at rehearsals.

"Now, I'm glad to have overcome the fear of that sound. It doesn't affect me, even when people watch our shooting. I'm performing my role naturally." (Aga had only good things to say about himself, too!)

Action stars were still the thing that month and Jon Hernandez was the latest addition to the bunch. The 21-year-old, a member of the show biz Salvador family, started out as a child performer and later became famous for teeny bopper roles in youth-oriented movies. *(To be concluded)*

Belinda . . . (From page F1)

son. "Acting is my passion. It's fulfilling. In the States, there was room for money because I had a corporate job but acting in theater gave me immense satisfaction. There's freedom and fulfillment in playing someone else.

"People either like you or not and you see that immediately in their reactions. It's a feeling of being in control—you can either make them laugh or cry," Belinda grins.

Monologues

She gravitates towards comic roles in theater and *kontrabida* roles on television. She hones her acting skills by memorizing monologues, watching old Meryl Streep movies and working with tough directors like NUT.

"Best way to learn is to have him as a director. It's like being in boot camp. When you're working for him, you swear you'll never do it again. But after the play, you start missing the strict standards he imposes on you," Belinda smiles.

Belinda dreams of acting alongside Michelle Pffeifer, Robert de Niro and Cherie Gil. As an MTV VJ, she wants to write her own scripts on the show someday. She appears to enjoy hosting and acting, and she wants to keep both jobs. Nope she'd rather not compare the two because acting and hosting give her a different sense of fulfillment.

Videos

"There are times when I get to perform on 'MTV Classic.' Sometimes I get to play around with videos. Being on MTV allows me to appreciate all types of music. I listen to R & B, pop, rock, alternative and even classical music.

"On the other hand, acting has always been something that I was drawn to. Theater has energy and it's always fun. Every night is different. You can never tell what's going to happen!" she exclaims.

PANELO. Being on MTV allows her to appreciate all types of music.

She's spunky, down-to-earth and bubbly but she swears that she doesn't have a nightlife. She goes to clubs and bars only if it's related to her work. She prefers to stay at home to bake, cook, watch movies or read a good book.

Belinda is a bundle of contradictions. She can be quiet and delicate one minute, and then be brave and fiery the next. But one thing's for sure, she has the determination, talent and will to succeed in acting!

Age: 27 years old

Birthday: June 2, 1974

What's on her CD rack: Craig David, The Best of Yazoo, Vanessa Mae

Sport: tennis, scuba-diving, rollerblading, American football

Food she hates: liver, balut, dinuguan

Favorite lipstick: Clinique Raspberry Sherbet

Odd jobs: waitressing and delivering newspapers in the States

Philippine Chamber Choir in 'Made In The Philippines' concert

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber Choir under the choirmastership of Jonathan M. Velasco, and in cooperation with Philippine American Life Insurance Co., will present a concert with an all-Asian repertoire on Thursday, Aug. 9, at 7:30 p.m., at the Philamlife Auditorium, UN ave., Manila.

Repertoire

The evening's repertoire is made up of choral works all "Made in the Philippines"—composed or arranged by Filipinos and other Asians in the Philippines.

Represented are sacred and traditional songs from Thailand, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines, all performed in their original language and accompanied by indigenous musical instruments.

Departure

The concert is being presented prior to the choir's departure for the Asia South Pacific Symposium on Choral Music to be held in Singapore from Aug. 13 to 17. During the symposium, the Philippine Chamber Choir will also serve as the demonstration choir for various workshops. Choirmaster Velasco has been designated Conductor of the Symposium Choir.

Call Debbie at 722-85-77.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 4 – AUG 10

CH 2	CH 4	CH 5	CH 7	CH 9	CH 13	CH 23	CH 29	CH 33
5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 'F' 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vanpires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *King of the Hill* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's BEST 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 To Be Announced 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class	6:00 Viva Premiere Night 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 Fist of Fury	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El Special *Emmy Nominations 2001* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 El Coming Attractions
5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanalaym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Business & Leisure	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Hercules:Mare of the Minotaur* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Batoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Cha-Cha Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Scream 2* 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Game1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva Music Channel 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Belle 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	7:00 El News Daily *MM Special* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *The Many Lives of Marilyn Monroe* 10:00 Celebrity Profile 11:00 Movies on El *The Seven Year Itch*
6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Speed	6:00 F 6:30 Mahiha Go Go Go 7:00 Guni-Guni 8:00 The Big Night *Night of the Twisters* 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonballZ 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:15 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	6:30 Viva Proudly Presents 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 WNBA 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Grapevine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *Carribean* 12:00 Talk Soup
6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Business Insights	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Life with Roger 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Kool Ka Lang 10:15 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Action Cinema 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:30 Viva Music Channel 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Jane Seymour* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Martin Lawrence* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Diyos At Bayan	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Beh Bote Nga 10:15 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Imbestigador	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Malcolm In the Middle 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Survivor 2 8:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Islands* 12:00 Talk Soup
6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best Of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover 12:00 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 10:15 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Hour	6:30 TeleViva Specials 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close *Jodie Foster* 12:00 Talk Soup
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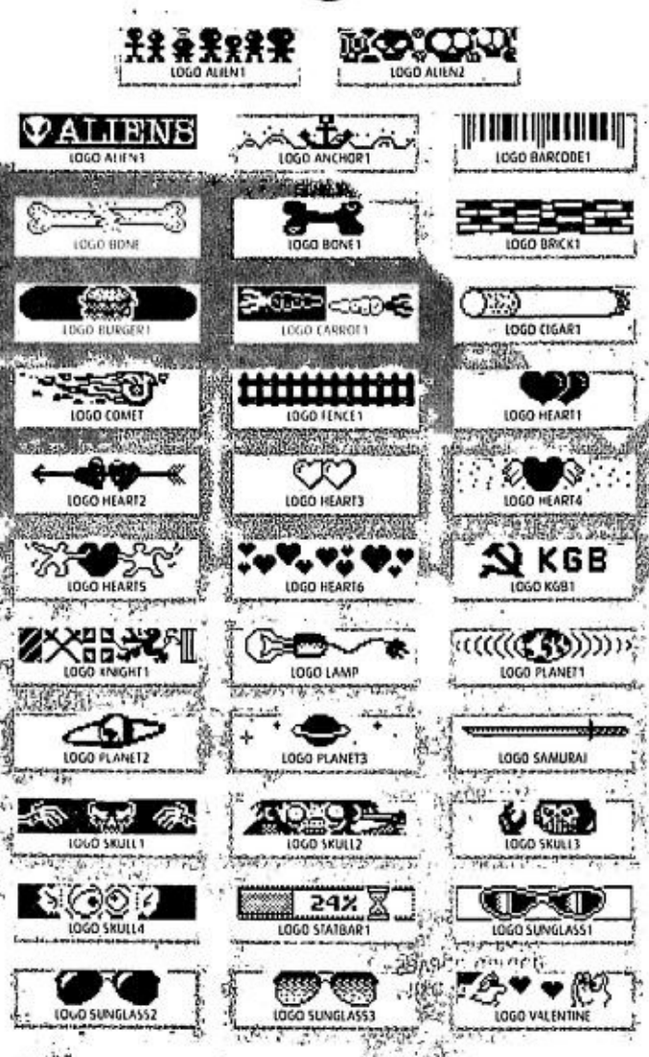

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All Star	Smashmouth/Gregory Camp	TONE ALLSTAR
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Head Overheels	Tears For Fears	TONE HEDOVRHIL
Hotel California	Eagles	TONE HOTELCALI
Iris	Googoo Dolls	TONE IRIS
Jump	Van Halen	TONE JUMP
Layla	Eric Clapton	TONE LAYLA
Losing My Religion	REM	TONE LOSINMY
Love Potion No.9	Jed Leiber	TONE LUVPOTION
Other Side	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE ODERSYD
Someday	Sugar Ray	TONE SUMDAY
Strange Love	Depeche Mode	TONE STRNGELV
The Final Countdown	Europe/Joey Tempest	TONE FINALCNT
Turning Japanese	Vapors	TONE JAPANIS
Under The Bridge	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE UNDRBRDG
Whole Lotta Love	Led Zeppelin	TONE WHOLAATALUV
tv		
Ally McBeal Theme	Vonda Shepard	TONE ALLYMC
Babylon 5 Theme	TV Cue	TONE BABYLON5
Batman Theme	Danny Elfman	TONE BATMAN
Dallas (TV Cue)	Stephen Inmel	TONE DALLAS
Doogie Howser Theme		TONE DOOGIE
Flintstone (TV Cue)	TV Cue	TONE FLINSTO
Jeopardy Theme	Merv Griffin	TONE JEPRDY
Scooby Doo Theme	Joseph Barbera/Hoyt Curtin/William Hannah	TONE SCOOBY
Simpsons Theme	Danny Elfman	TONE SIMPSONS
movie		
Addams Family Theme	Mike Post/Pete Carpenter	TONE ADDAMS
Animal Song	Savage Garden/Daren Hayes/Daniel Jones	TONE ANIMAL
Duel Of the Fates	Star Wars Episode 1	TONE EPISODE1
Dying Young	James Newton Howard	TONE DIEYOUNG
Godfather Theme	N. Rota	TONE GODFATHER
I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing	Mett Serlitia/Mark Dobson/David Thoene/Suzie	TONE MISATING
I Say A Little Prayer	My Best Friend's Wedding	TONE SAYALIL
Rocky Theme	Carol Connors/William Conti	TONE ROCKY
Star Wars 3 Theme	John Williams	TONE STRWARS3
Superman Theme	Leon Klatskin	TONE SUPERMAN
The Imperial March	The Empire Strikes Back	TONE IMPERIAL
Under The Sea	Little Mermaid	TONE UNDERSEA
Xmen Theme		TONE XMEN

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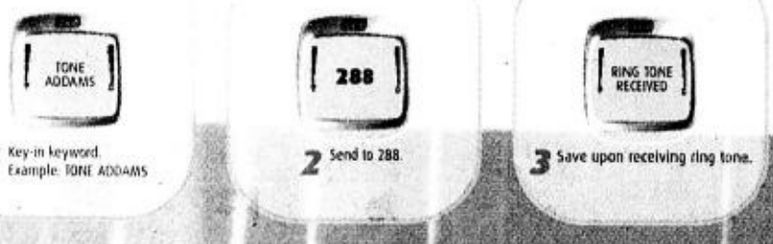

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Pooch Perfect

JI goes to a dog show!

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

BUNDLE OF CUTE. Eight-year-old Justine Diaz has her hands full with Moe the Pomeranian.

ROGER CARPIO

YOU know you're at a dog show when:

a) your ears overflow with all kinds of *woofing*, *yapping* and *yip-yip-yipping*, which you start to hear from a block away.

b) you see pet carriers of all sizes. Some of them are set up around what look like small separate beauty parlors, complete with clips, snippers and hairspray.

c) you look in front of you, behind you, all around you, and find yourself surrounded with dogs, dogs, dogs...and still more dogs!!!

A day at a dog show is a definite treat for any animal-lover and an out-and-out panting party for the true-blue dog fan. When we checked out the Philippine Canine Club's 259th-260th All-Breed Championship Dog Show at Riverbanks Center in Marikina last July 21 and 22, we had ourselves a fun furry time.

A doggie beauty contest

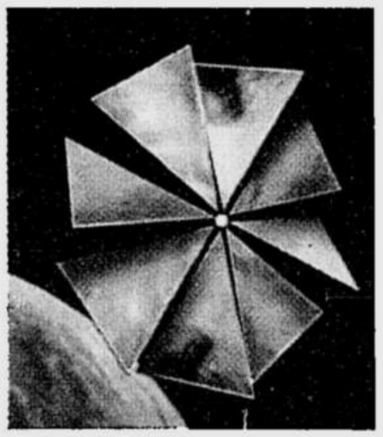
Just so you know, a dog show, especially one organized by the Philippine Canine Club, is a lot like a beauty contest for dogs. You don't see any of the contestants doing tricks

Pooch/ p. 4

WORLD SCOPE

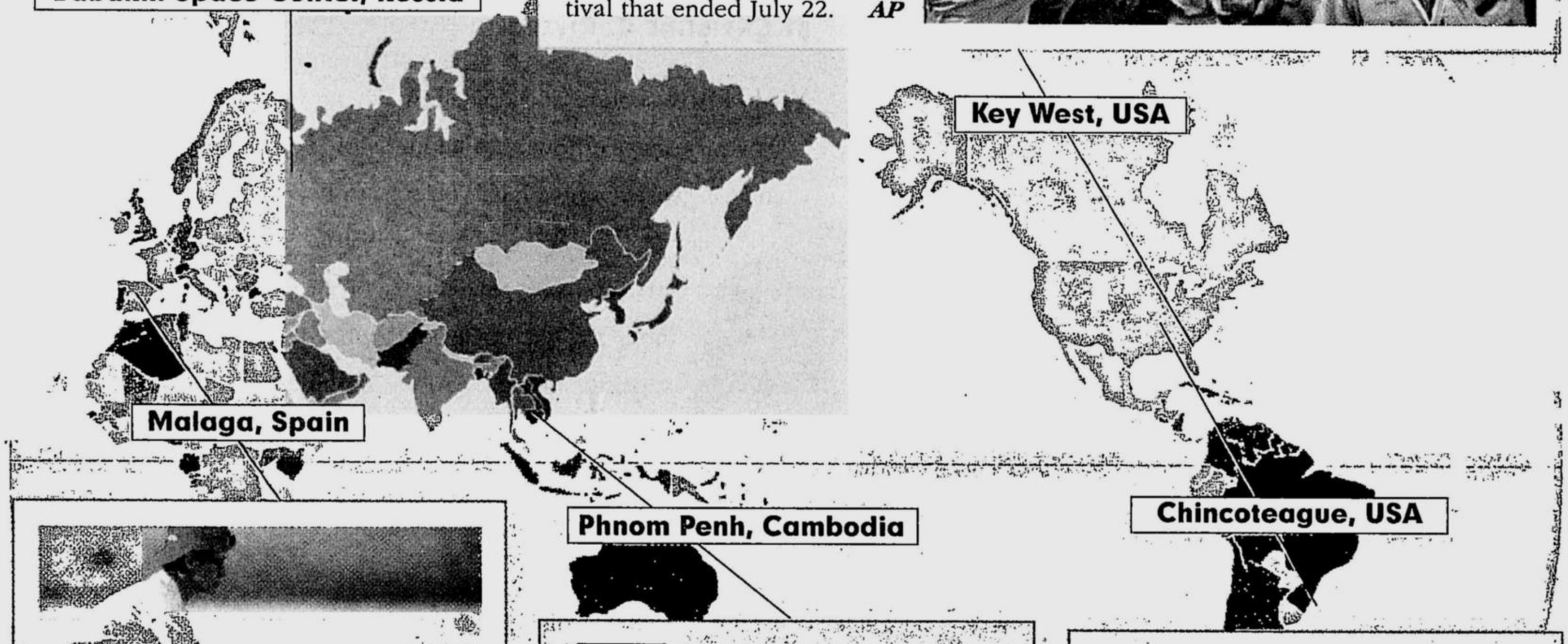
Solar Sail

THIS undated artist rendition shows the Cosmos 1 solar sail in orbit. The technology will enable future spacecraft to sail on gossamer wings, propelled only by the gentle push of the sun's rays. A Russian nuclear submarine launched a rocket to test a prototype of the American-sponsored spacecraft on July 19, but it was unclear whether the results of the test will ever be known because the instruments that recorded the flight may have been lost. ***AP***



The 'Ernest' Look

SURROUNDED by past winners, Denny Woods (center) cradles a bust of American writer Ernest Hemingway just after he bested 117 other contestants at the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest in Key West, Florida. The competition was a highlight event of the annual Hemingway Days Festival that ended July 22. ***AP***



Studying Flamingoes

AN UNIDENTIFIED volunteer lets go of a flamingo bird after placing a tag on its leg at the Fuente de Piedra Lagoon sanctuary near Malaga, southern Spain. Thousands of flamingoes from the lagoon were tagged in an effort to study their migratory patterns. The flamingoes will soon head for areas in Africa, where the rainy season is starting as the lagoons of southern Spain dry up in summertime. ***AP***

Following her dreams

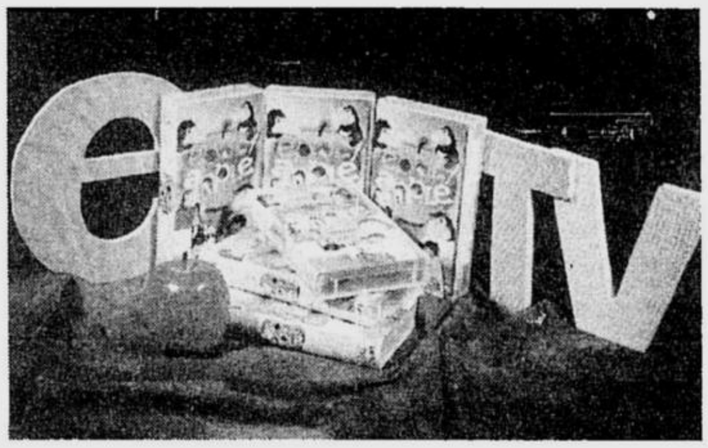
ENG Malek, a 20-year-old Cambodian girl, types at her workstation despite disfigured hands at the offices of Digital Divide Data in Phnom Penh. Digital Divide Data is the first company to be opened by the organization Follow Your Dreams Cambodia, with the intention to create technology-related jobs for poor and disabled citizens. ***AP***

Swimming Ponies

PONIES swim across Assateague Channel to Chincoteague island on during the 75th annual pony swim in Virginia, USA. A local legend says the ponies are descendants of ponies that swam ashore after a Spanish galleon wrecked off the coast of Assateague Island. ***AP***

Cable Picks

CATS AND DOGS MARATHON. It's raining cats and dogs at Cartoon Network! Our favorite cats and dogs take center stage as Cartoon Network presents a huge Cats and Dogs Marathon this month. On Aug. 25, Saturday, watch famous felines such as "Tom and Jerry," "Top Cat," "Sylvester," "Cattanooga Cats," "Lippy the Lion," "Mr. Jinx" and "Swat Kats." Aug. 26, Sunday, is a "Dog Day." All the marvelous mutts "Courage the Cowardly Dog," "Scooby & Scrappy Doo," "Huckleberry Hound," "Augie Doggie," "The Jetson's Astro," "2 Stupid Dogs," "Droopy" and "Mutley" take the spotlight. Don't miss this!



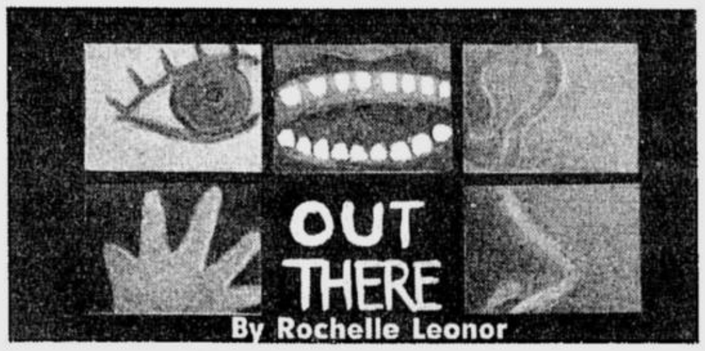
LEARN ENGLISH. Who says learning English is boring? VHS tapes of educational television shows are now available at the ABS-CBN Foundation on Mother Ignacia, Quezon City and selected bookstores. "Epol/Apple," the show which features "*Kuya* Bodjie" Pascua as Tito Luis, will help grade school students develop basic skills in English for everyday situations. Tapes of "Pahina," "Hiraya Manawari," "Barangay Cine Aralan," "Bayani," "Sineskwela" and "Mathtinik" are also available. Call 924-4101 loc. 3765 for more details.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL. Learn how elephants show their love for each other and learn about their never-before-seen death rituals in "When Elephants Die" on Monday, August 6 at 8 p.m.

You can also jaunt into Jack West's dream to meet a rare and elusive animal that has captured his imagination in "The Mighty Civet," on Monday August 13 at 8.pm.

Embark on an eerie journey to a world of ghosts, spirits and gods in "Spiritual World" on August 11 at 7 p.m.? You can catch all these amazing adventures at the National Geographic Channel.

WITH YOU, THE FORCE IS. Star TV brings the force of Star Wars on all Sundays of August. On Aug. 5, watch the digitally re-mastered "Star Wars: Episode IV-A New Hope." The saga continues with "Star Wars: Episode V-The Empire Strikes Back" on Aug. 12. And "Star Wars IV-Return of the Jedi" follows on Aug. 19. Miss these shows, don't you dare!



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Check This Out

***i* Club ALERT.** All Sky Cable *i* Club members are invited to watch the fun-filled musical play "Cinderella" presented by Repertory Philippines. Each child member is entitled to a free ticket (plus one ticket for a companion). Members who are also BayanTel and Sky Internet subscribers will be given free tickets too! For more inquiries, call 910-1577 or visit the *i* Club Headquarters at 2F Benpres Bldg. Exchange Road, Ortigas Center.

WANT TO BE A STAR? Jollibee is looking for young talented boys and girls, ages 13 and below to be part of the JKW Talent Circle Batch 2. Young actors and singers can call Lani Carandang at 361-7850. If the drums and bugle are more your thing, call Cindy Cruz at 645-5716. For drums and lyre enthusiasts, call Jennifer Chua at 363-5653. And if you want to be a band performer, call Rian Torrefranca at 681-5132 or Cheryl Alferez at 363-5401.

WRITING WORKSHOP. Do you want to learn how to write essays, features and book reviews? Do you want to be good in journalism, short story writing and playwriting? Tower Book House is offering a writing workshop for Filipino children, ages 8 to 18. The workshop will be held on Saturday mornings (9:30-11:30 a.m.) and afternoons (1-3 p.m.). You can call 8156925 or 8154938 for more details.

SACRED HEART OFFERS KUMON. Sacred Heart School-Sun Valley is now offering Kumon Reading and Math. Aside from loads of learning and fun activities, students of SHS can now reap the benefits of the Kumon Method of Learning. Enrollment for school year 2001-2002 is also ongoing. For more inquiries, call 823-1348 and look for Ms Mary Rose.

LEARNING CAMP AT SHANGRI-LA. Want to study arts and crafts? Or have fun experimenting with stuff? Children, ages 1 1/2 to 5 1/2 are invited to join the learning camp at Shangri-La for free! The fun starts on Aug. 4 until Aug. 25. For additional information, you can call 636-1227 or visit the learning camp at Unit 515, 5th level of Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City.

Contest

A STORY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. Do you have a story on environmental conservation? Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) is holding a nationwide short story writing contest to create awareness among the youth on the value of love and respect for Mother Nature. The contest is open to all elementary students. Students may submit one entry written in either English of Filipino, together with the entry form, which you can get from all RCBC branches. Deadline for the contest is Nov. 16. Grand prize winners will receive P30,000 cash, a trophy and a scholarship package worth P25,000 from Pacific Plans, Inc. So, join now! You can call Mary Ann Muñoz at 878-3344 for more details.

Watch Out For

ASIAN ARTS FEST. From Sept. 15-25, selected young artists will showcase their talents in Anak-Anak Asia, a festival of Asian children's arts. Catch this at various sites in Marikina City, Shangri-La Plaza and the National Arts Center in Makiling, Laguna.

For more inquiries, you can call the Philippine High School for the Arts Manila Office at 832-3665 or (049) 5365973.

YOUNG dancers practice for the Anak Asia Fest.

Pooch Perfect

(from page 1)

like rolling over and jumping through hoops around here. Each dog enters a ring, is inspected by a judge and parades around to show one and all what a fine, fine canine he or she is.

During the two days of the dog show we watched, we saw over 400 different dogs, the most popular breeds being the Rottweilers, the German Shepherds, the Miniature Pinschers and the Labrador Retrievers. There were 55 different contestants among the Labradors alone, and both yellow and black members of the breed joined the show.

We also got to see some really unique breeds that you're not likely to find at a pet shop. There was a gorgeous 7-month-old Akita puppy, named Coby, who was so big, he looked grown-up to us!

BARBIE is the name of this pretty Collie owned by 9-year-old Patrick Corral.

AWWW, Akita puppies!!!

"Akitas are a Japanese breed," says Coby's owner, Eugenia Smith, "they're very protective of their property and very loyal to their owners. For me, they're the best guard dogs."

People oohhed and aaahhhed when a dozen Afghan Hounds—hounds with a regal face and long silky coats—entered the ring. When they ran, their coats flowed like milk and molten gold.

An odd-looking breed, the Chinese Crested also got the crowd's attention. It's a small dog that has fur only on its ears, neck, paws and the tip of its tail. On the rest of its body—nada. (Remember "102 Dalmatians"? It was Cruella de Vil's dog.)

A kid's best friend

Kids also came to enter their pets in the show. Seven-year-old Rica Sarenas introduced us to the family Bulldog, Snap. "He's a good dog," she told us as she hummed to him and gave him a massage. The stocky, powerfully built fellow was so good-natured, he let Rica ride on his back while waiting for his turn in the ring.

Another big dog, a Chow-Chow, was entered by 8-year-old Charmaine Tan and her family. "His name is Barney Bear," she told us, laughing as the large bear-like doggie turned its furry face to us and started licking our ear with its unique blue tongue.

On the itty-bitty side, 10-year-old Richard Patrick Tuazon brought along his 10-month-old Mini Pinscher, Scrappy, described by Richard's dad as "delightful, too smart and a real show-off."

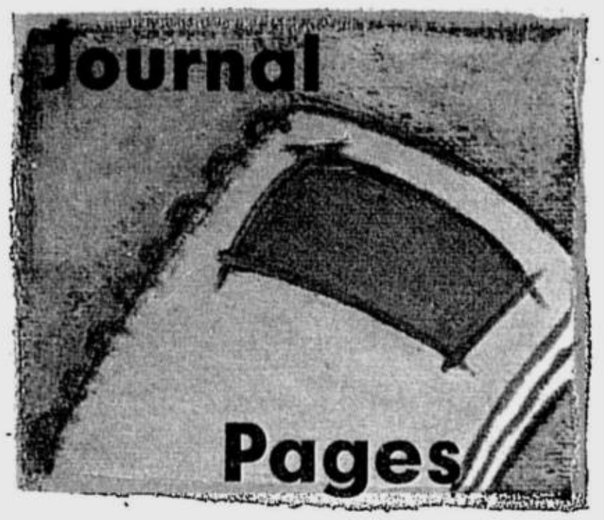
Photos by ROGER CARPIO

TAMIYA the Boxer loves a good ball game with his her human pals Kristine (back) and Kolynne Adriano.

Sisters Geanne and Gealle Chan had fun showing their puppy, an ever-grinning Boston Terrier. "We call him Goofy because Gealle's favorite character is Goofy," says 9-year-old Geanne. The Boston Terrier, by the way, is related to the Bulldog and looks a little like one in the face, but they're smaller in size and their legs look more slender.

Ten-year-old Kristine Adriano's family entered two dogs in the show, a Beagle named Buster and a Boxer called Tamiya. Kristine says she's in charge of feeding both dogs whom she thinks are both "*makulit*...they love to bark and play."

For Kristine, dogs are the best pet a kid can ever have because "they're fun to take care of." And best of all, she says, "They can take care of you, too."



The Best Class

BY PAMELA CORTEZ
WOODROSE SCHOOL

N MY opinion, there is no class better than ne. Grade 4-B is so unique. "United we stand, vided we fall." Yes. That's the saying that rfectly describes my class.

When a classmate needs help, there will ways be someone to lend a helping hand. en if there are 34 of us in the classroom, we as one body because we do things together, better or for worse.

Our teachers say we are the naughtiest and isiest class. I think they're right. But I bet u they all say that to the others. Other peo- even find us annoying and irritating. I bet u they're just jealous. But they need not feel it way. We are just a bunch of happy kids th different personalities, full of life and energy. Truth is, we are very nice, very cooperative and extremely friendly.

For the past three years, from Grade 1 to Grade 3, it was hard for me to make friends. I guess those were my wonder years. I was trying to adjust.

This year I finally did make a lot of friends: all 33 of my classmates. It is never hard to interact with these classmates of mine. Day by day, we become closer to one another. More so during bad times.

Suddenly, I realized I was growing up. My classmates and my teachers taught me a lot about sharing and helping, and for this I am eternally grateful.

I hope that we stay together, forever. Of course at school, that can't really happen. But I will never forget how wonderful it is to be part of this class. I thank God for this and may He continue to bless us all.

I love Grade 4-B. It's the best class I've ever been part of.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Club Talk

DEAR Editor,

I study at Miriam College Grade School. I'm in Grade 6-Kayumanggi! I think this year at school is the hardest. We're all studying very hard to pass Grade 6. Then when we enter Grade 7, everything will be a breeze. Here in Miriam, we have lots of clubs to choose from. I joined the Miriam Ballet Club and the Puppetry Club. I have been a ballet student for five years now. Our teacher is *prima ballerina* Liza De La Fuente-Castañeda. So, if you are a Miriam student and interested in dancing ballet, join us!—**DEBORAH BAYBAY**, Quezon City

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Bangkang Papel

Si Nanay ang nagturo kay Farley tungkol sa mga bangkang papel at tungkol sa buhay

KUWENTO NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI JO DE LEON

MULA sa diyaryong pang-umaga na binili ng kanyang Tatay ay pumilas si Farley ng isang pahina upang gawing bangka. Pero bago niya pinilas ang dyaryo, sinigurado niyang nabasa na ito ng kanyang Tatay.

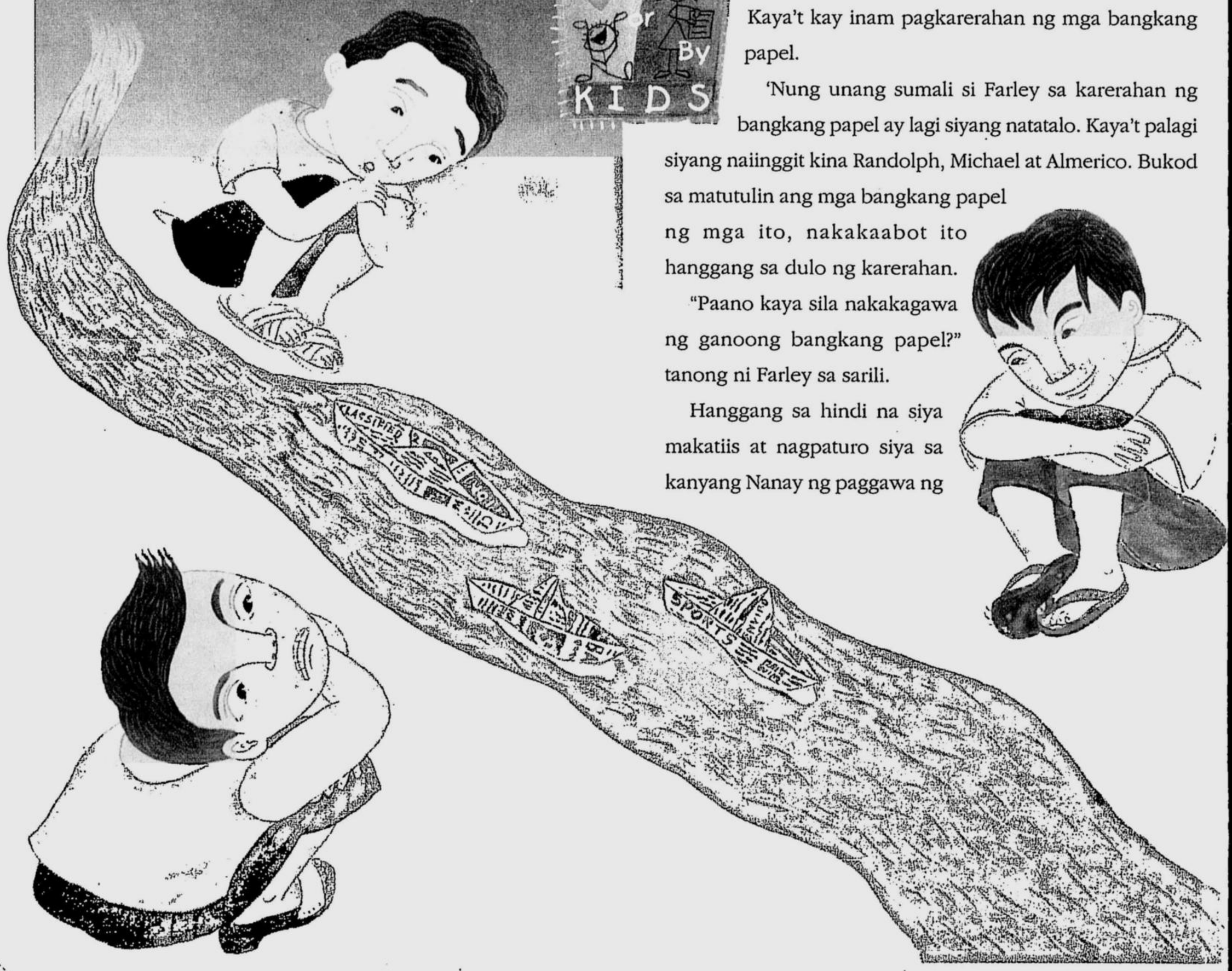
Mahilig sa bangkang papel si Farley lalo na't matibay at maganda ang pagkakagawa. Tinuruan siya ng kanyang Nanay kung paano gumawa ng isang matibay na bangkang papel.

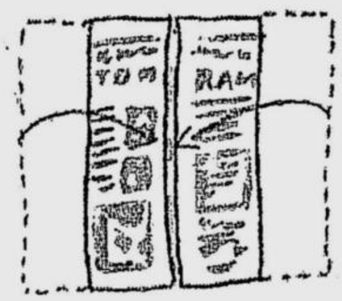
Sa kanilang lugar, sa gilid ng mga kalsada ay laging may umaagos na tubig mula sa matataas na bundok ng Paete. Malinis ang tubig at sariwang-sariwa. Kaya't kay inam pagkarerahan ng mga bangkang papel.

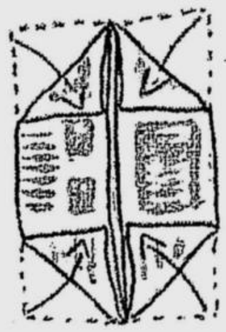
'Nung unang sumali si Farley sa karerahan ng bangkang papel ay lagi siyang natatalo. Kaya't palagi siyang naiinggit kina Randolph, Michael at Almerico. Bukod sa matutulin ang mga bangkang papel ng mga ito, nakakaabot ito hanggang sa dulo ng karerahan.

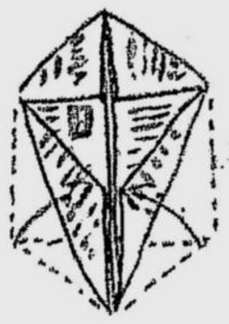
"Paano kaya sila nakakagawa ng ganoong bangkang papel?" tanong ni Farley sa sarili.

Hanggang sa hindi na siya makatiis at nagpaturo siya sa kanyang Nanay ng paggawa ng









isang matulin at matibay na bangkang papel.

"Dapat ay tama lamang ang laki. Kapag masyadong malaki ang bangka, mahihirapan itong umusad," ang sabi ng kanyang Nanay habang pumipilas ng isang pahina ng diyaryo.

"Sa pagtutupi, kailangang pantay-pantay. Tamang-tama, walang sobra, walang kulang. At dapat kapag gumagawa ka ng bangkang papel, isipin mong ikaw ito. Ikaw ang tinatangay ng tubig, upang kapag ika'y nasabit sa isang bato o napasingit sa gilid, alam mo kung paano makaalis at maging matulin."

Sinimulan ni Farley ang paggawa ng bangkang papel. Inisa-isa niya ang bilin ng kanyang Nanay.

"Hindi dapat malaki, wala sa laki ang itatagal ng isang bangkang papel, kailangang pantay na pantay ang pagkakatupi, walang sobra, walang kulang," ang utos ng kanyang isipan. Kinulayan pa niya ito. Nilagyan ng mga disenyo sa tagiliran. May ibon, isda at elepante.

Natapos ang kanyang bangkang papel. Namangha si Farley. Nanlaki ang kanyang mata at humiyaw ng: "Hanep! ang ganda." Itinaas pa niya ang bangkang papel upang titigang mabuti.

Hinipan-hipan pa niya ito upang mas lalong maging matibay.

Lumabas na siya ng bahay at hinanap niya sina Randolph, Michael at Almerico upang ayaing maglaro ng karerahan ng bangkang papel.

Sinimulan nila ang laro. Kapag naririnig nila ang salitang "Sige!" hudyat ito upang pakawalan nila ang kanilang mga bangkang papel.

Nag-uunahan ang mga bangkang papel na sari-sari ang kulay. Hapon na kaya't malakas ang agos ng tubig. Matulin ang mga bangkang papel. Sinundan nila ang matulin na pag-usad ng mga bangka habang lumalakas ang kanilang mga sigaw.

"Dapat ay tama lamang ang laki. Kapag masyadong malaki ang bangka, mahihirapan itong umusad," ang sabi ng kanyang Nanay

"Sige! Sige pa! Bilisan mo pa! 'Wag kang mababalalak, 'wag kang hihinto," hiyaw ni Farley.

Matulin ang kanyang bangkang papel. Tama ang kanyang Nanay: wala sa laki ang itatagal at tulin ng isang bangkang papel. Ngunit matitibay rin at matutulin ang bangka nina Randolph, Michael at Almerico kaya't hindi pa rin sigurado kung siya ang mananalo.

Sinundan nila ang mga bangka. Papalakas nang papalakas ang mga hiyawan nila at ng mga batang nanlalaki ang mga mata. Kinakabahan si Farley. Ito ang unang bangkang papel na pinagbuhusan niya ng pawis sa paggawa.

Nabalalak sa isang malaking bato ang bangka ni Michael at nilamon ng tubig ang bangka ni Almerico. Ngunit lubhang matibay ang kay Randolph. Malapit na ang katapusan ng karerahan at maaaring matalo pa siya. Palakas nang palakas ang hiyawan ng mga nanonood at sumusunod sa pag-usad ng natitirang dalawang matuling bangka. Ngunit ilang dangkal na lamang ang layo mula sa katapusan ay dagliang lumubog ang bangka ni Randolph.

Napahiyaw si Farley nang malakas.

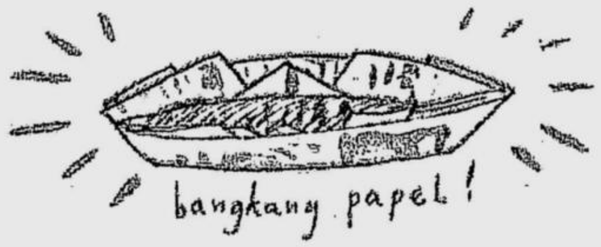
"Sa wakas!"

Umuwi siya sa bahay na hitik sa ngiti. Ibinalita niya sa kanyang Nanay ang kanyang pagkapanalo sa karerahan ng mga bangkang papel. Tuwang-tuwa ang kanyang Nanay.

"Pero anak, kailangang matuto rin tayong tumanggap ng pagkatalo, dahil hindi sa lahat ng pagkakataon ay panalo tayo," narinig niyang payo ng kanyang Nanay.

"Tama si Nanay."

Muli siyang nakinig nang mabuti upang isaisip ang payo ng kanyang Nanay na handang tumulong sa kanyang mga problema.



*Si **Genaro** ay kasalukuyang nagpapakadalubhasa sa pagsusulat sa 2nd UST National Writers Workshop.*

*Si **Jo** ay taga-Quezon City at mahilig magbisikleta.*

Pups R 'Rific

They're cute, they're cuddly and they each have a way of brightening our lives

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

EVERYBODY loves a puppy. It's hard not to, especially when they look at you with those round, gentle eyes of theirs.

At the dog show we attended, we met a lot of sweet pups, including a 4-month-old yellow Labrador Retriever named Vanilla. Before the competition, we found Vanilla sitting patiently on a small table as her human pal, 3-year-old Matthew Manguiat, put a cute birthday party hat on her head.

"They're really buddy-buddy," said Matt's mom, *Tita* Aileen, "when I fetch Matt from school, Vanilla waits with me in the car. They play together, they jog together and they even swim together."

According to *Tita* Aileen, Vanilla is one dog you can't keep away from the swimming pool. "That's really the nature of a Retriever, so Vanilla takes a swim three times a week," she explained.

In the competition ring, Vanilla proved to be quite the show dog, too. She held her head high and did a bouncy little walk that was just too adorable to resist. She went home later that day with an armful of Best Baby Puppy awards.

After the show, we also found out that Vanilla has a very good memory. It had already been some hours after we first met her, then when we saw her again, or rather, when *she* saw us again, she just jumped up our legs in greeting.

"Oh, hi there, Vanilla!" we greeted her back, and we couldn't help grinning.

Plucky pup

Another pup, who caught our attention, was a very opinionated Miniature Pinscher named Melody. Now Min-Pins, as the breed is fondly called, look like tiny Dobermanns (they're not related, though). They're really, really small. Full-grown, they weigh less than 10 pounds, only about as heavy as a cat...though some cats could be heavier! So, anyway, if a grown-up Min-Pin is small, you can just imagine how small a Min-Pin puppy is.

DON'T let that innocent look fool you. Melody is one tough pup!

Not that THAT ever bothered Melody. While waiting for her turn in the ring, Melody kept yapping and big dogs like German Shepherds and Rottweilers passing in front of her made her yap all the more. Thankfully, the big guys were polite enough not to bark back.

"She's really a very brave dog," chuckled her *yaya*, Nene Gubaton, "Nothing scares her, not even the big dogs."

At five months, *Yaya* Nene told us Melody already knows her name and is very loving. "She sleeps by my side and when you say, 'Kiss,' she'll kiss you on the lips," she adds.

"But if you don't pay her any attention," *Yaya* Nene chuckled again, "she'll *aw-aw* and *aw-aw* until you notice her."

Well whaddya expect, folks? Puppies love us as much as we love them too.

SWEET AND PERFECT. Vanilla seems like just the right name for this friendly pup.

Photos by ROGER CARPIO

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids 'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

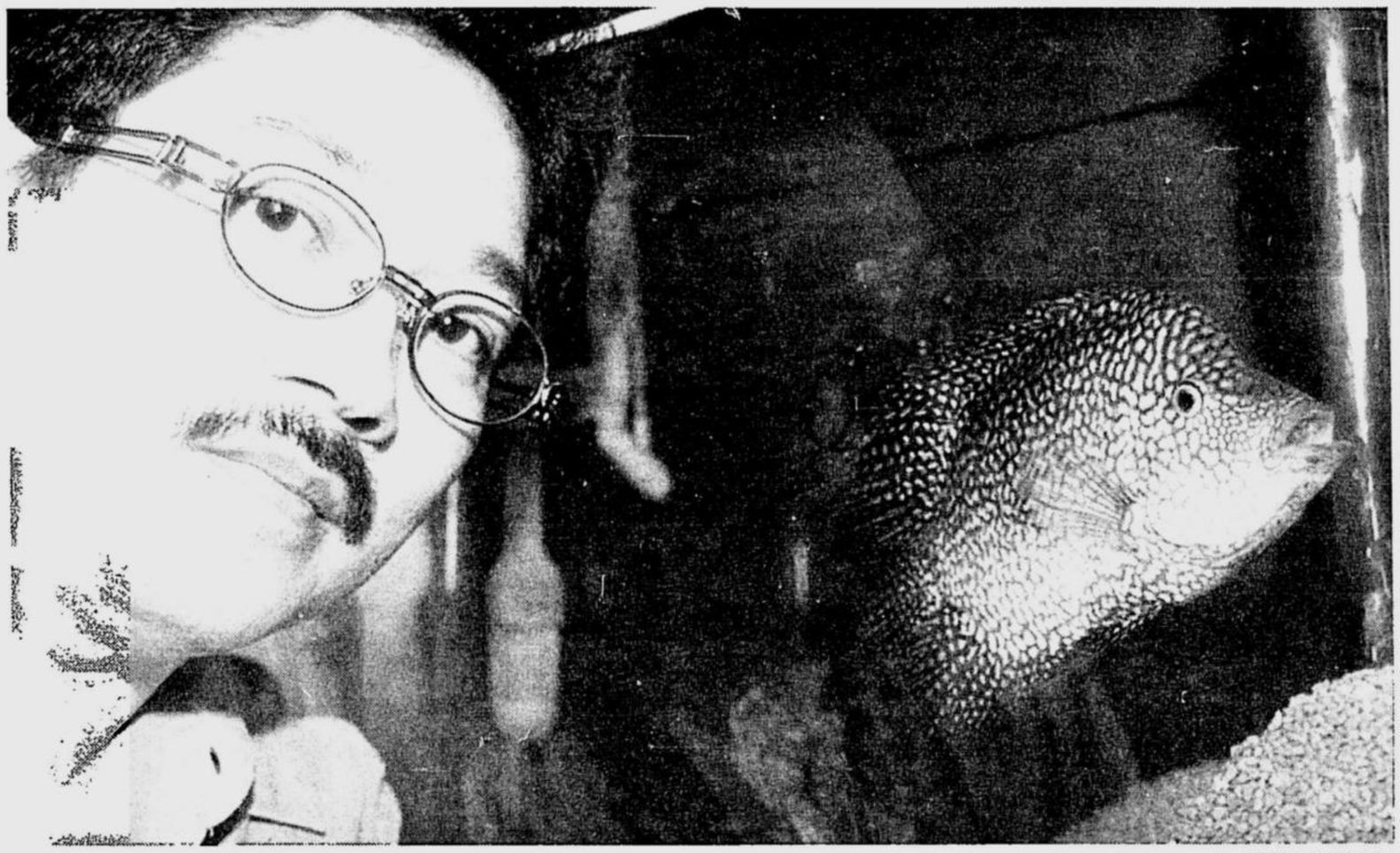
_____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No. _____



ROMY HOMILLADA

A FISH'S BEST FRIEND. Meet Danny and one of his swimming pals. The fish sure knows how to pose!

The Composer is a Pet Shop Owner

Musician Danny Tan loves critters with fur, fins, and feathers as much as a good tune

WHEN he was younger, Daniel Tan would climb a mango tree every noon and listen to his neighbor play the piano. Though it was hot and everyone else would be having lunch, Danny would stay in his perch, loving every tinkle of the song he heard.

"That's when I decided to study music," he says.

Growing up in Palawan, Danny taught himself to read notes and play the piano just by reading books.

"I guess it was just my calling," says Danny, who is now a well-known composer and a musical director for concerts.

"It feels great when I hear my songs being played," Danny says, smiling.

Later, in college, a professor of his, National Artist for Music Lucio San Pedro, encouraged him to become a composer, and he's been composing music ever since.

His first big hit was the song "Salamat, Salamat Musika," which won the top prize during the Metropop Festival of 1984. The words and music were by Gary Granada, but Danny took care of the musical arrangement.

He also composed and arranged Jaya's "Sometimes You Know" as well as the revival "Iisa Pa Lamang."

Danny also owns a pet shop. "Under the Sea and Other Creatures" in SM City, North Edsa specializes in saltwater fish, one of Danny's favorite animals.

It also has other unique features that showcase Danny's creativity.

"I didn't want the pet shop to look like other pet shops," he explains, "I didn't want the animals to be in cages. I wanted the customers to see them play."

So Danny designed this glass enclosure right in the middle of the shop where the dogs are together in one section and the cats are together in theirs. None of them are in cages. The dogs are then free to play with each other and so are the cats and many people walk into the shop to watch them do just that.

"It's funny," says Danny, "at our old pet shop in Tandang Sora, there was a karaoke place across the street and every night I would hear them sing one of my songs."

"It's a good feeling," he muses, "a really good feeling."

Christine C. Rivero

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

*Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

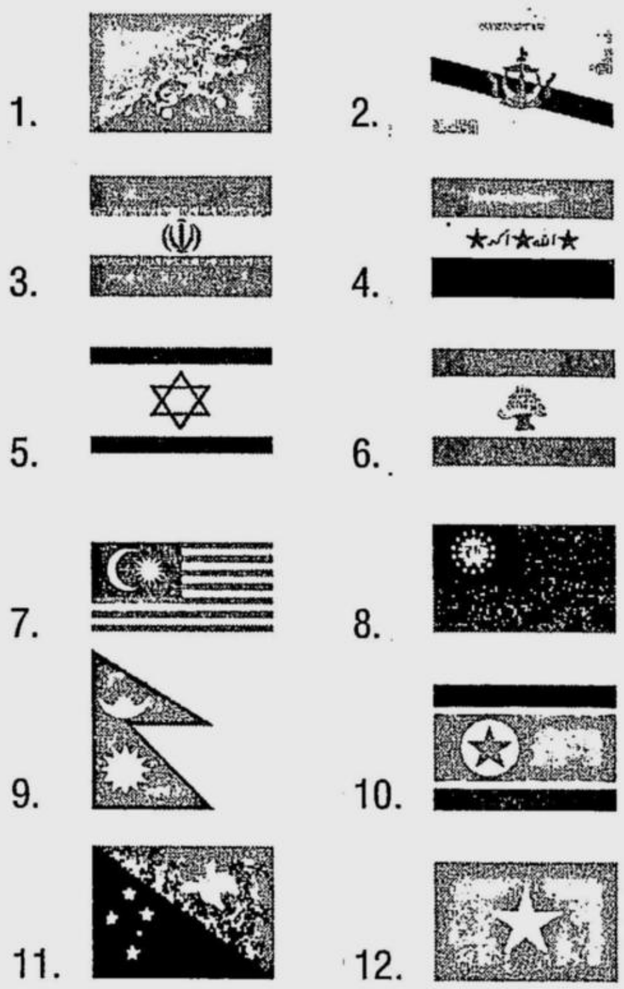
A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)_____;
2)_____;
3)_____;
4)_____;
and
5)_____.

My nominee lives at_____
_____.
Give him/her a call at_____
_____ or send him/her an e-mail at_____
By the way, I'm_____
_____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
_____ _____.
You may call me at
_____ _____.

Asian Flags

SCORE a point if you can identify each flag representing an Asian country. If you need help, check out the country's capital in the boxed list. May you pass the test with flying colors!

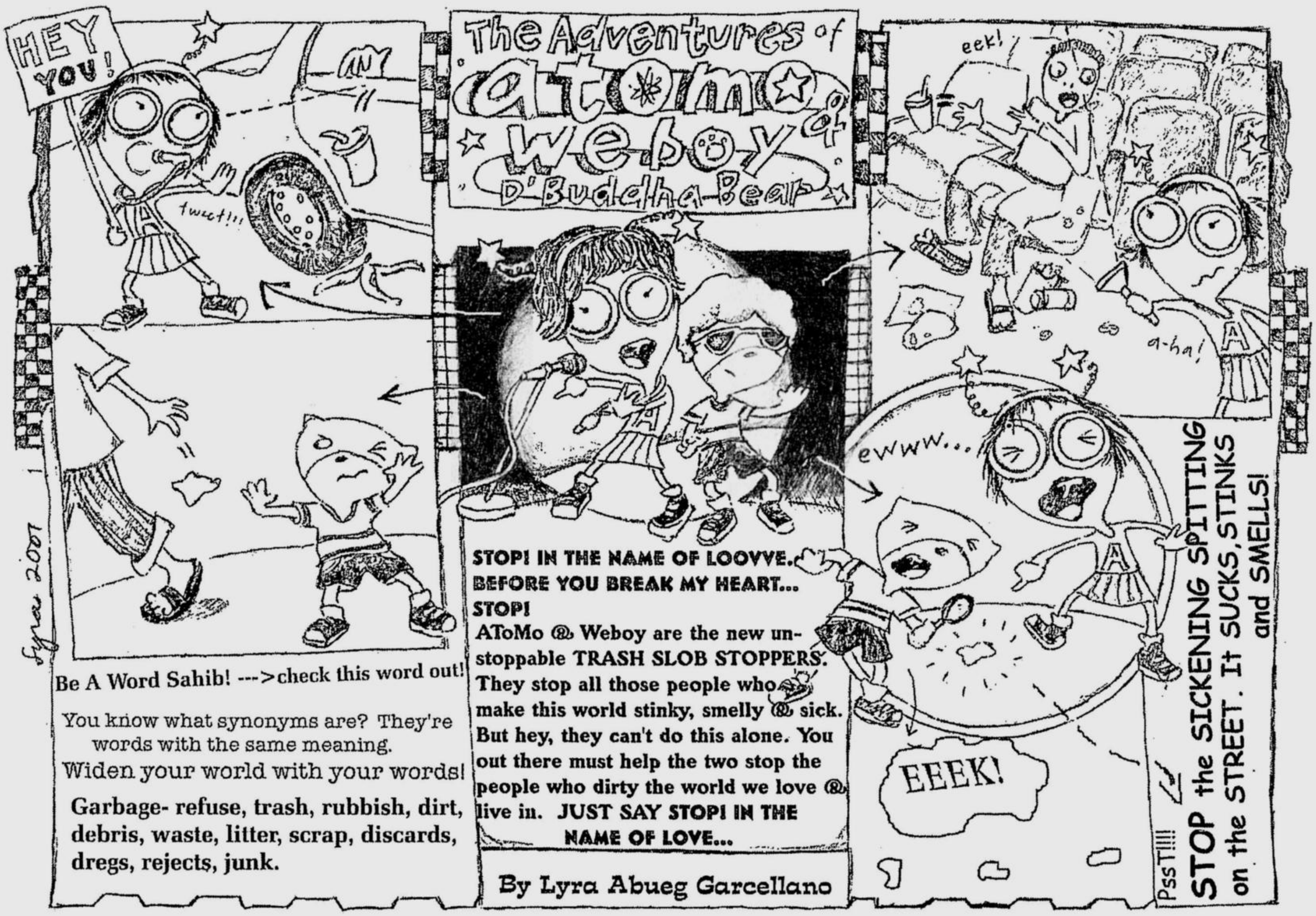


1. Thimphu
2. Bandar Seri Begawan
3. Teheran
4. Baghdad
5. Tel Aviv
6. Beirut
7. Kuala Lumpur
8. Yangon
9. Katmandu
10. Pyongyang
11. Port Moresby
12. Hanoi

Ratings :

Answers :

1. Bhutan
2. Brunei
3. Iran
4. Iraq
5. Israel
6. Lebanon
7. Malaysia
8. Myanmar
9. Nepal
10. North Korea
11. Papua New Guinea
12. Vietnam



Be A Word Sahib! --->check this word out!

You know what synonyms are? They're words with the same meaning.

Widen your world with your words!

Garbage- refuse, trash, rubbish, dirt, debris, waste, litter, scrap, discards, dregs, rejects, junk.

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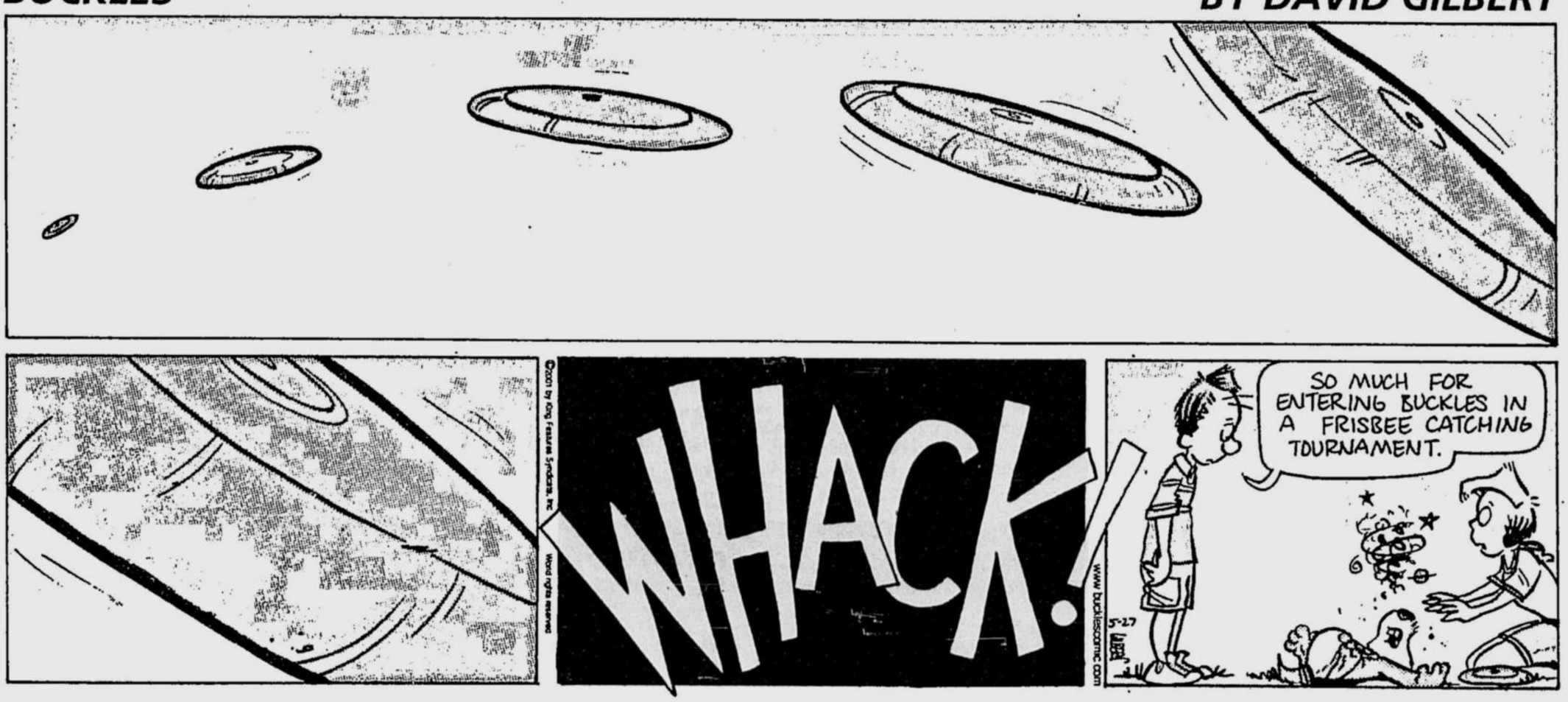
Visit us at shirleyspets.cheesedip.com or Send email to shifu@animail.net

BUCKLES **BY DAVID GILBERT**



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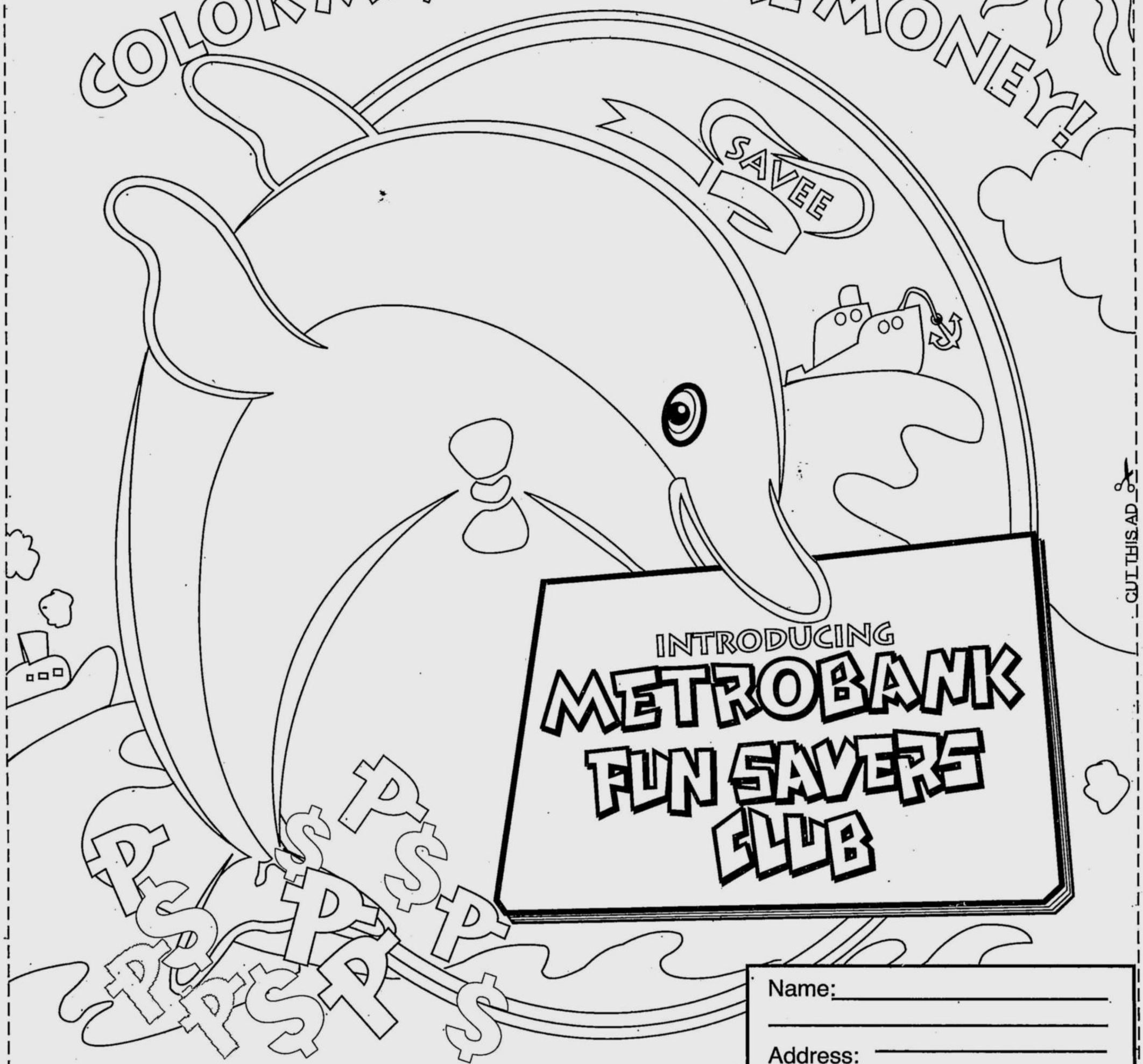
COLOR ME, WIN SOME MONEY!



CUT THIS AD

Hey kids! If you're between 7-10 years old, you could be one of ten lucky winners of a ₱2,000.00 initial deposit and membership in the Metrobank Fun Savers Club! If you are already a member and you win, your ₱2,000.00-cash prize will be deposited to your Metrobank Fun Savers Club account. It's so easy to join! Just color Savee the dolphin blue, his tummy white and color the rest of the ad any way you want, then send your entries to: "Color Me" Contest, PRMD, 11th floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Send as many entries as you want on or before August 17, 2001! So what are you waiting for? Get your crayons, crayons and colored pencils and start coloring this ad now!

NOTE: *Only original ads are considered as valid entries. Photocopies will be disqualified.

Name: _____

_____

Address: _____

_____

Tel. No.: _____ Age: _____

Metrobank Fun Savers Club member? YES ___ NO ___

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